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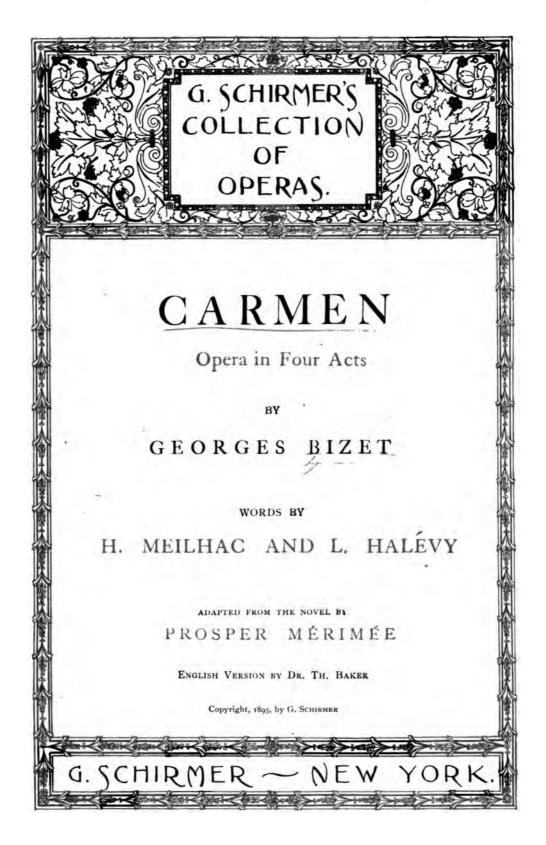








GEORGES BIZET. 1838-1875.



Music

M 1503 B63 C2 C2 C73

1601 1 5 ma

F. G. Burrows - 3 817 Added Coff

CARMEN.

FIRST PERFORMED AT THE OPÉRA-COMIQUE, PARIS, MARCH 3, 1875.

Characters of the Drama,

With the Original Cast as presented at the first performance.

DON JOSÉ, Corporal of Dragoons .		•				M. Lhérie.
ESCAMILLO, Toreador						M. Bouhy.
ZUNIGA, Captain of Dragoons		•		•		M. Dufriche.
MORALES, Officer		•				M. Duvernoy.
LILLAS PASTIA, Innkeeper						M. Nathan.
CARMEN, a Gypsy-girl						Mme. Galli-Marié.
MICAELA, a Village maiden		•		•	• •	Mlle. Chapuy.
FRASQUITA MERCEDES Companions of Carmen	(•		Mile. Ducasse.
MERCEDES Companions of Carmen	1		•			Mile. Chevalier.
EL DANCAÏRO						
EL REMENDADO Smugglers.						
A GUIDE.						•

Dragoons, Gypsies, Smugglers, Cigarette-girls. Street-boys, etc.

ACT I.—A PUBLIC SQUARE IN SEVILLA. ACT II.—LILLAS PASTIA'S TAVERN. ACT III.—A WILD MOUNTAIN-PASS. ACT IV.—PUBLIC SQUARE IN SEVILLA AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE CIRCUS.

The Story of Carmen.

The scene of the opera is Sevilla and environs; the time, 1820. Act I opens in a square of Sevilla. Morales, officer of dragoons, is lounging, with the soldiers of the guard, in front of the guard-house, watching the people come and go. Among them he notices a maiden, Micaela, whose shy glances betray an interest in the soldiers. Questioning her, he finds that she wishes to see Don Fosé, a corporal in the regiment; she then evades too pressing attentions, and leaves the square. The relief-guard, with Don Fosé and his captain, Zuniga, appears, and the other guard marches off. Now, at the stroke of noon, the cigarette-girls pour out from the adjacent tobacco-factory; last of all comes Carmen, the beautiful, bold, heartless Gypsy-girl. Scoffing at the gallants who crowd around to seek her favor, her eye chances to light on Don Fosé, still quite oblivious of her presence. He takes her fancy; after momentary hesitation she approaches him, throws him a nosegay, and, with a passionate glance, turns and flees. Don Fosé, amazed and, against his will, flattered by such a token of partiality, is presently surprised by his village

sweetheart, *Micaela*, who brings a message from his mother, exhorting him to be true to his first love. *Micaela* discreetly withdraws while *Don Fosé* reads the letter; filled with tender thoughts of earlier days, he would renounce the fitful passion inspired by *Carmen*;—but a sudden disturbance breaks in upon this softer mood; *Carmen* has wounded one of her companions in a quarrel, and *Don Fosé* himself is commissioned by *Zuniga* to arrest her and take her to jail. But her passionate wiles overbear his good resolutions; he lets her escape, and is punished by imprisonment.

Act II plays in a suburban resort of smugglers, of whom Carmen is a faithful Here she had promised to meet Don José; just now she is passing the time agreeably in the company of Zuniga and other officers. Escamillo, a redoubtable toreador, joins them, and falls in love with Carmen, who repulses his advances. Two Gypsies, leaders of the smugglers, enter to inform Carmen and her two companions Frasquita and Mercedes, that their aid is needed, the same evening, to pass some "merchandise". Carmen, awaiting Don José, who has just been set at liberty, refuses to go. He comes; the rest retire, leaving him alone with Carmen, who, enchanted at recovering her lover, employs all her art to entertain and fascinate him. But, of a sudden, he hears distant bugles sounding the "retreat", realizes that he will be treated as a deserter if absent without leave, and, despite Carmen's astonishment and growing disdain and fury, is in the act of departing, when the door is forced by Zuniga. He peremptorily orders Don José to be gone, who as haughtily refuses to yield to his rival; swords are drawn, but Carmen summons the Gypsies from their hiding-places. Zuniga is disarmed, and Don Fosé is forced, as an open mutineer against his superior officer, to leave Sevilla and join the smugglers.

In Act III the band is assembled within a wild mountain-gorge, waiting to carry their bales into the city. Don fosé is also there; but he takes no interest in their enterprise, and bitter regrets continually assail him. Carmen, already tired of her half-hearted lover, tauntingly advises him to go back to his mother; she persists in tormenting him, although the cards, in which she implicitly believes, foretell that she is doomed to the speedy death which his gloomy looks presage. departs, leaving Don Fosé to mount guard over goods lest behind for another trip. Micaela, unseen by him, approaches; she catches sight of Don Fosé, but at the same instant he levels his carbine and fires in her direction. Overcome by fright, she swoons and sinks down behind the rocks. The shot, however, was aimed at Escamillo, who clambers unharmed over the rocks, and introduces himself to Don fosé, whose pleasure at their meeting is quickly turned to bitterest hatred when Escamillo nonchalantly announces his errand—to meet his sweetheart, Carmen. A terrible duel ensues, fought with the deadly navajas (large, keen-bladed claspknives). Escamillo's life is saved by the unexpected intervention of Carmen, whose love is now wholly transferred to him; and leaves the scene defiantly. The smugglers are about to follow, when they espy *Micaela*, who, awakened from her swoon, implores Don José to hasten to his dying mother. Unable to resist this appeal, he goes but warns Carmen that they will meet again elsewhere.

The scene of Act IV is another square in Sevilla, before the ancient amphitheatre

in which the bull-fights are held. Last in the brilliant procession formed by the participants in the combat, comes Escamillo, with him Carmen, radiant with delight in her latest conquest. Her friends warn her to go away, telling her that Don José is lying in wait. She does not heed the warning. The two meet. Don José is in no murderous mood; for the time, love has wholly gained the mastery. He implores Carmen to be his, even promises to rejoin the band of smugglers for her sake. She repels him with inflexible determination; laughs him to scorn, and throws at his feet the ring he had given her; fearlessly confronting his rising fury, she tells him that all is over between them, that Escamillo is everything to her, and that, though she feels that death is near, she will love him to her last breath. Exulting in the outburst of applause from the arena, telling of Escamillo's triumph, she attempts to join him; but Don José, maddened by jealousy, seizes her and stabs her to the heart at the very moment when Escamillo, flushed by victory, issues from the amphitheatre with the exultant throng.

The plot here sketched in outline, is based on Prosper Mérimée's story, "Carmen". The very skilfully adapted libretto of the opera is the joint production of Henry Meilhac and Ludovic Halévy. The action is animated, well-knit, and flowing, never dragging or becoming tiresome. And it was a most masterly stroke to introduce the character of Micaela, which is not found in Mérimée's tale, into the play as a contrast and foil to that of Carmen, and in motivation of Don Fose's irresolution:—Micaela, the simple, true-hearted village maid,—Carmen, the passionate, artful, fickle Gypsy-girl. An opportunity for musical characterization was thus presented, which the gifted composer has made one of the most attractive and effective features in a work replete with charming and striking musical effects. Bizet, well acquainted with Spanish folk-life and folk-music through frequent sojourn in the Pyrenees, portrays scenes and personages in the magical light of real "local color"—a phrase (and effect) too often misused by mediocrity. His melody is his The leading character, Carmen, occupies the foreground, dramatically and musically, whenever she is on the stage; yet the lesser rôles are so carefully handled that there is no sense of disproportion. The total effect is that of a grand art-work, cunningly wrought in the least details; an imperishable monument to one of the greatest among modern French composers.

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1 Carmen. Nº 1. Prelude. The Journdon Georges Bizet. Allegro giocoso. (= 116.) pp cresc. molto.

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Act I.

A square in Sevilla. On the right, the door of the tobacco-factory.

At the back, a real bridge. On the left, a guard-house.

When the curtain rises, Corporal Morales and the soldiers are discovered, grouped in front of the guard-house. People coming and going on the square.

Nº 2. Scene and Chorus.



















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Nº 3. Chorus of Street-boys.













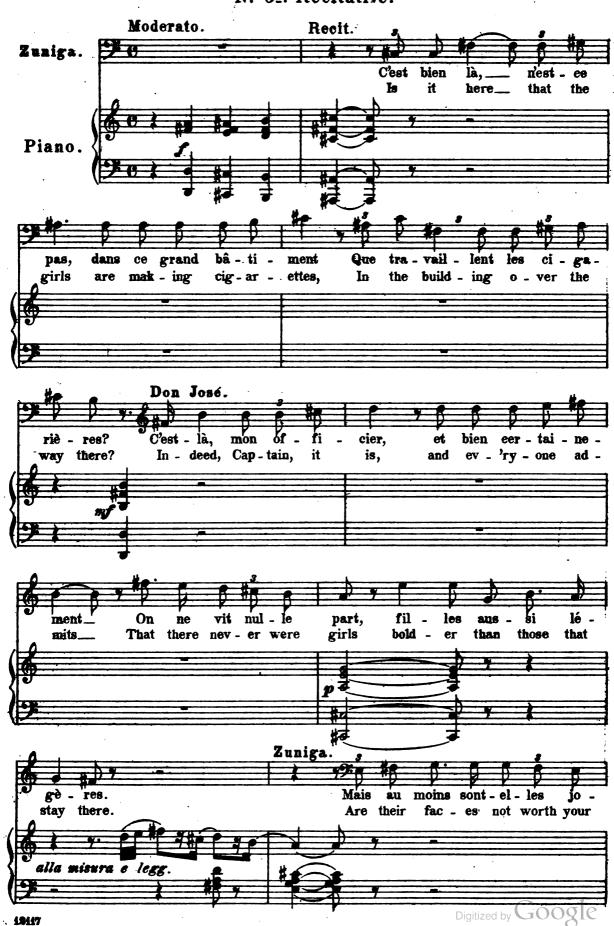


(Except grand going off duty. ___ Street-boys march off behind bugler and fifer of the retiring grand, in the same manner as they followed those of the relief.)















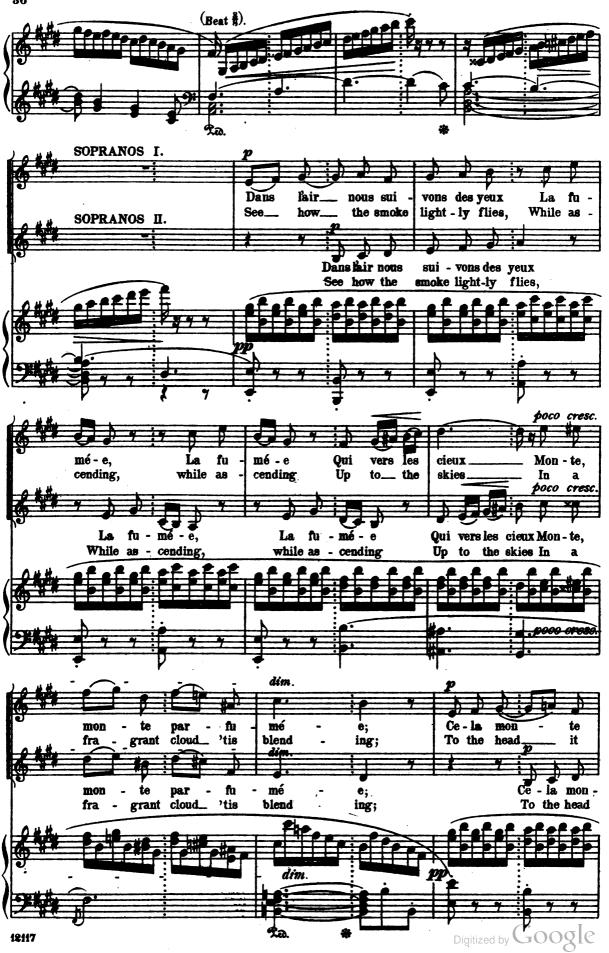
Nº 4. Chorus of Cigarette-girls.

















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Nº 5. Habanera.*)











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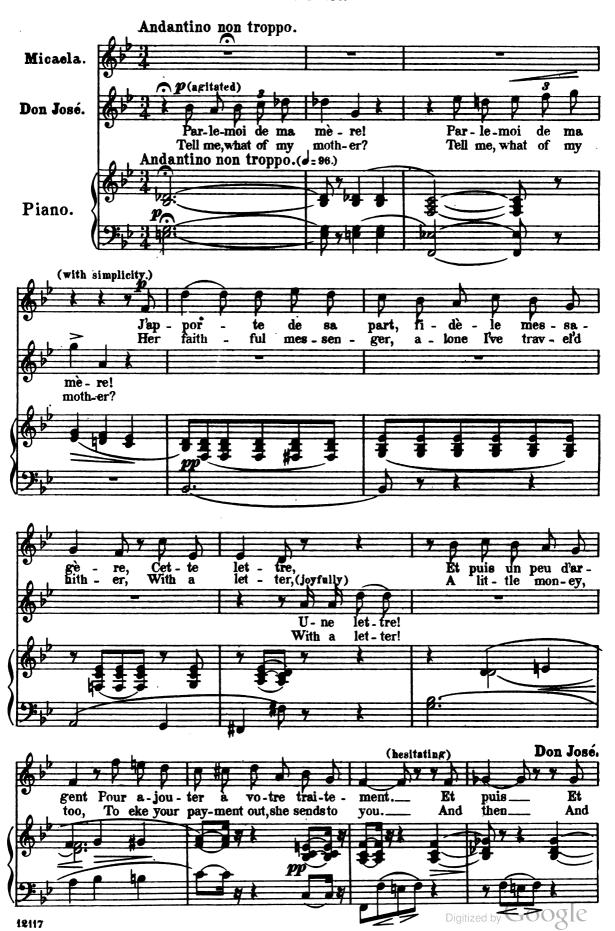
































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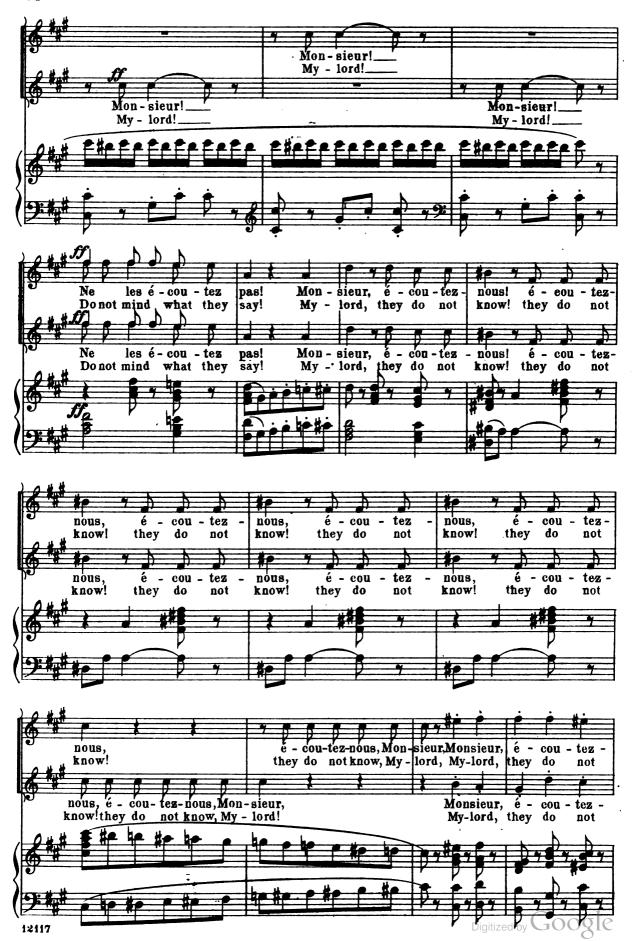


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Nº 9. Song and Melodrama.

















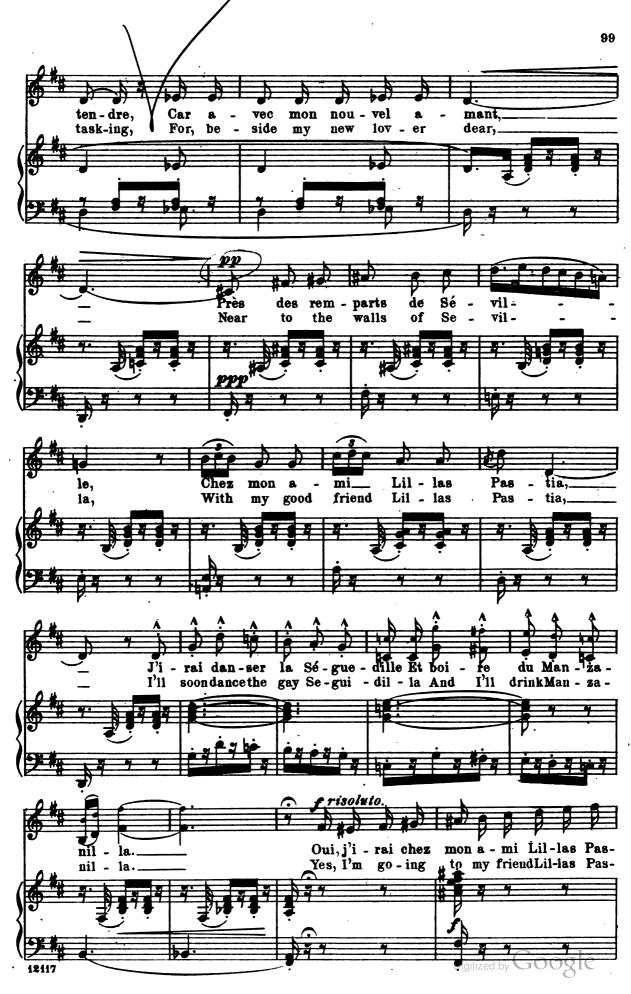
























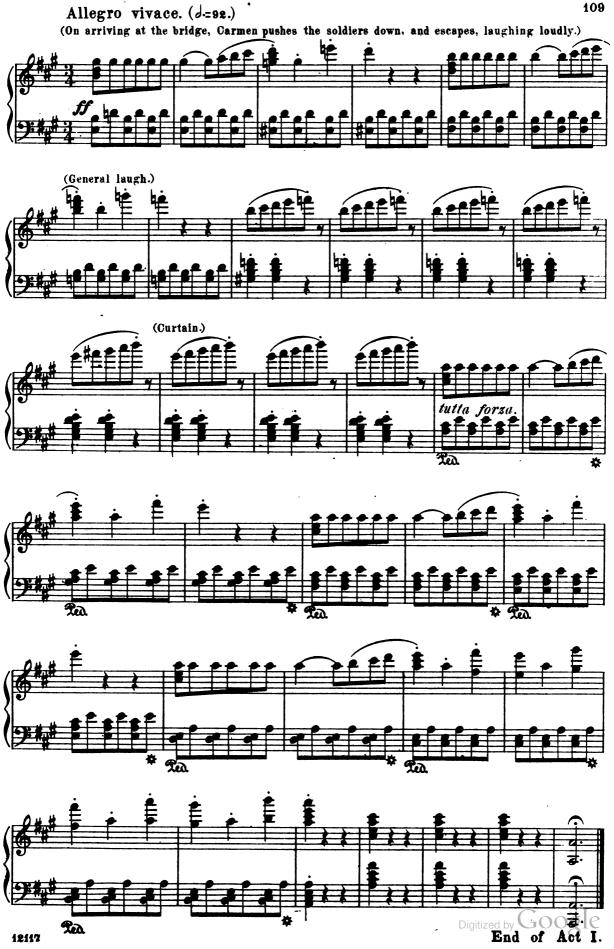


Nº 11. Finale.





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She soldiers of alea Ca.
Entr'acte.

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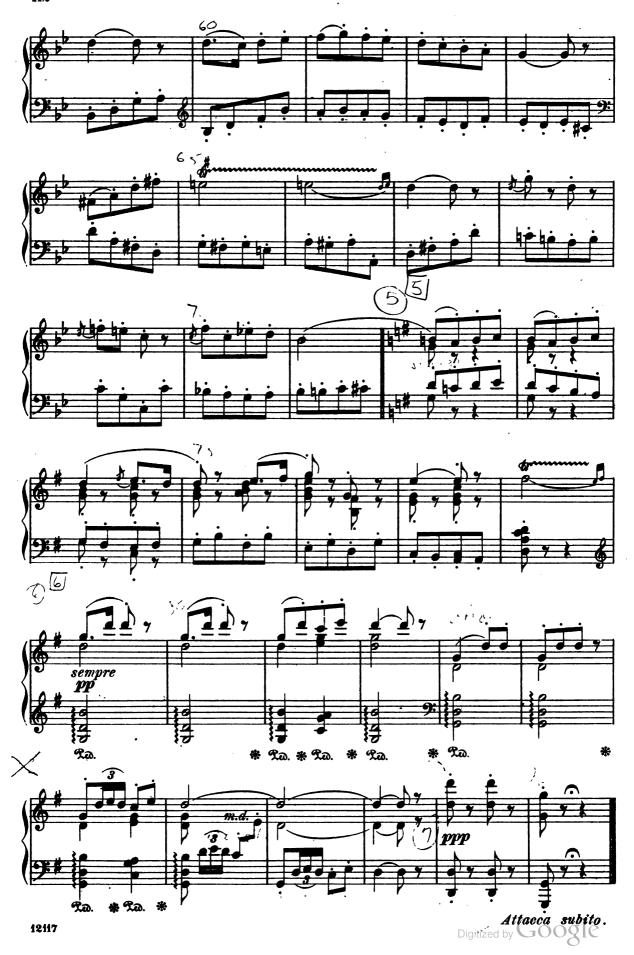


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Lillas Pastia's Inn. When the curtain rises, Carmen, Frasquita, and Mercedes are discovered seated at a table with the officers. Dance of the Gypsy-girls, accompanied by Gypsies playing the guitar and tambourine.

Nº 12. Gypsy Song.















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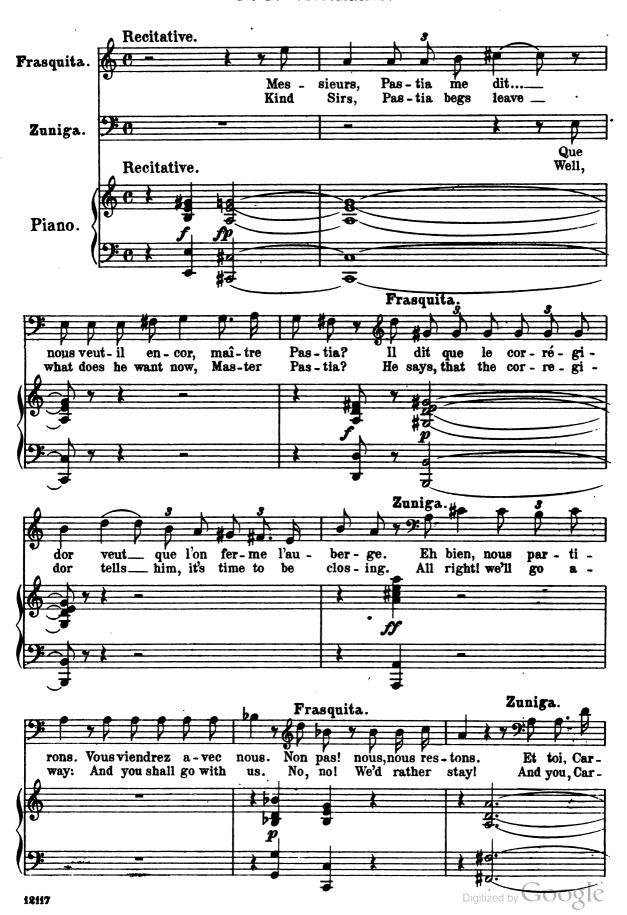
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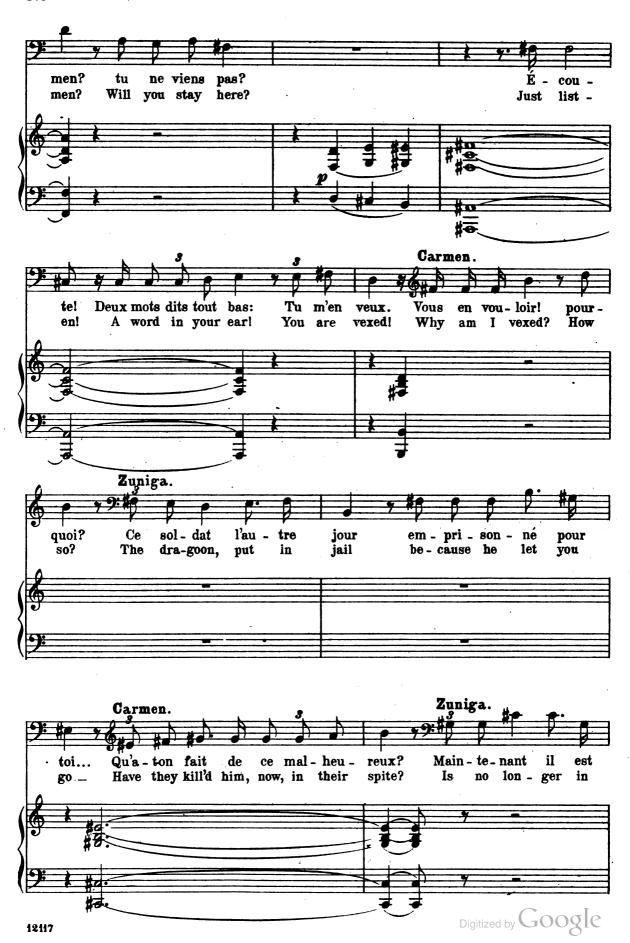




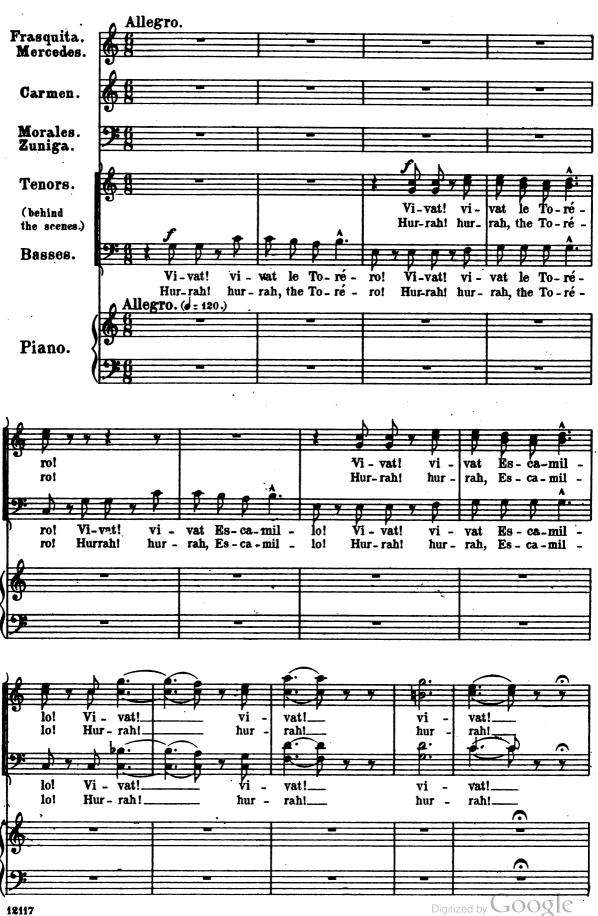




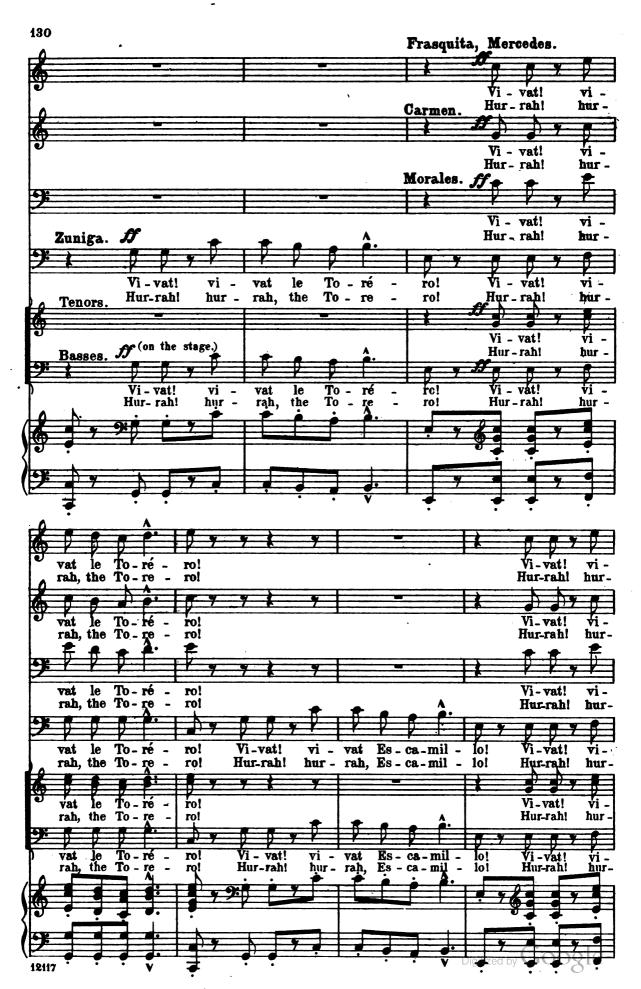


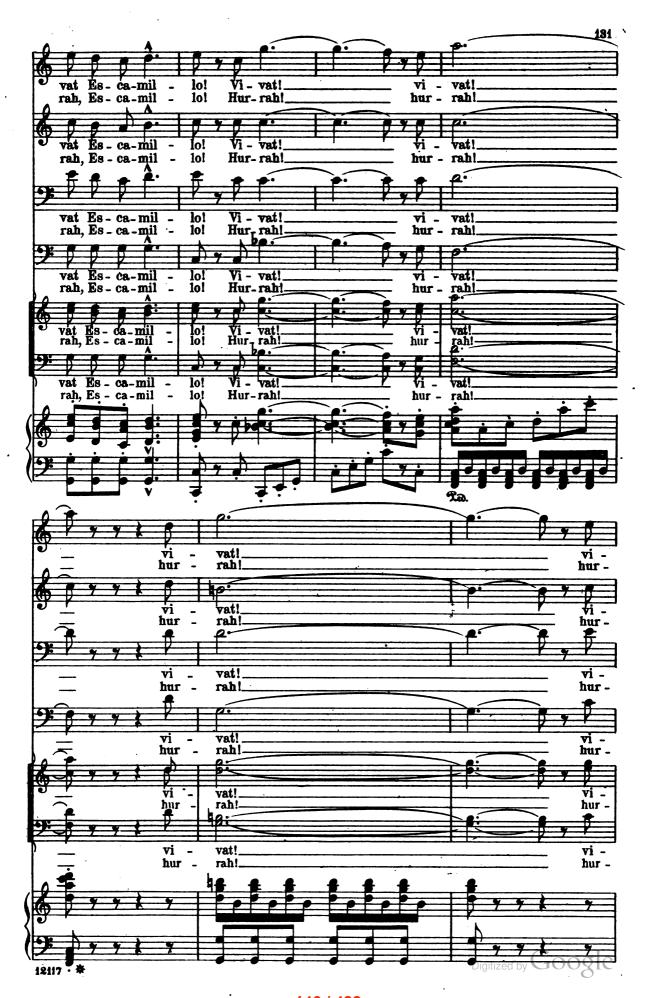














of the decimal No 14. Couplets.



^{*)} In case the part of Carmen, in the ensembles of the second and third acts, is too low for the voice of the artist taking that rôle, she may sing the part of Frasquita or Mercedes.

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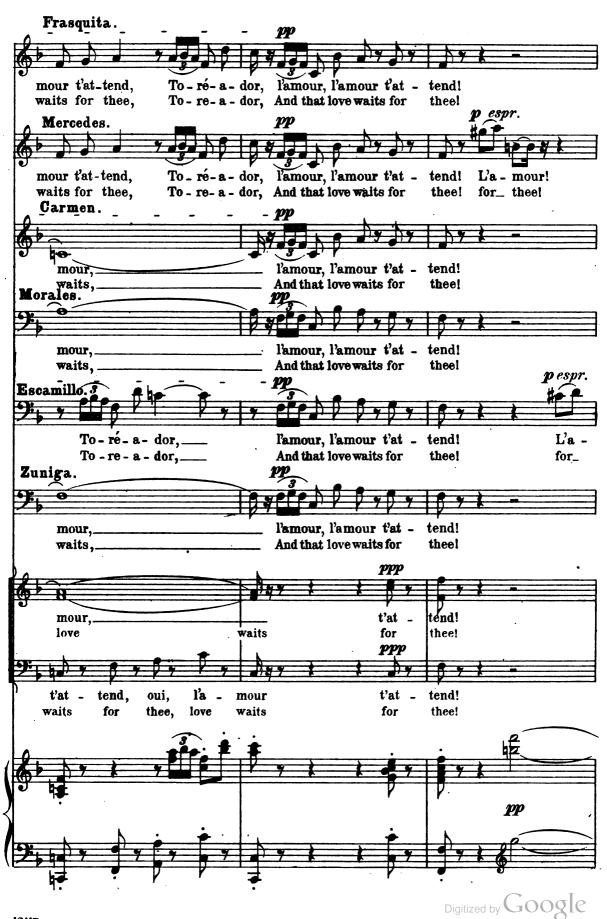








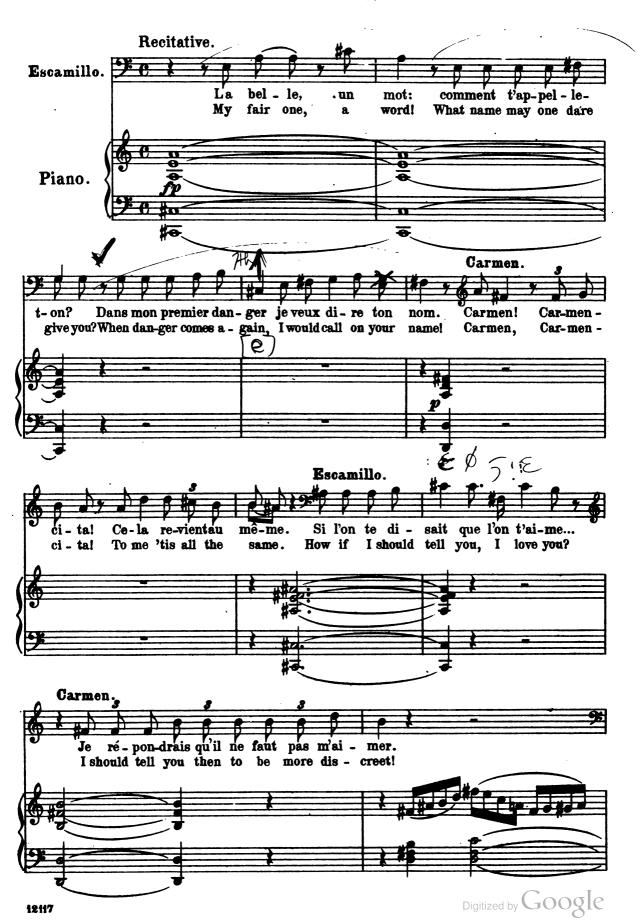


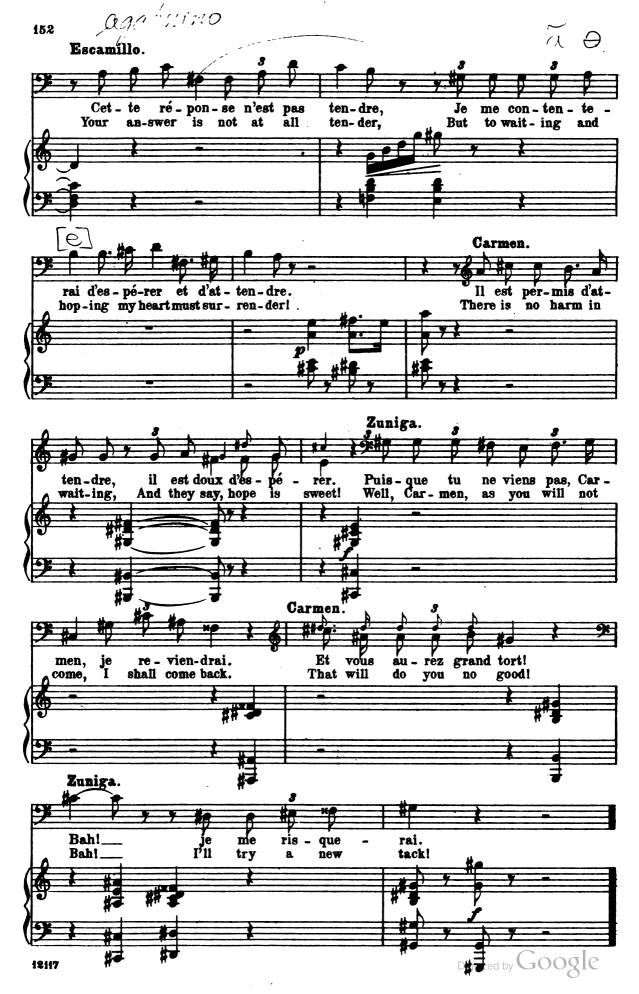




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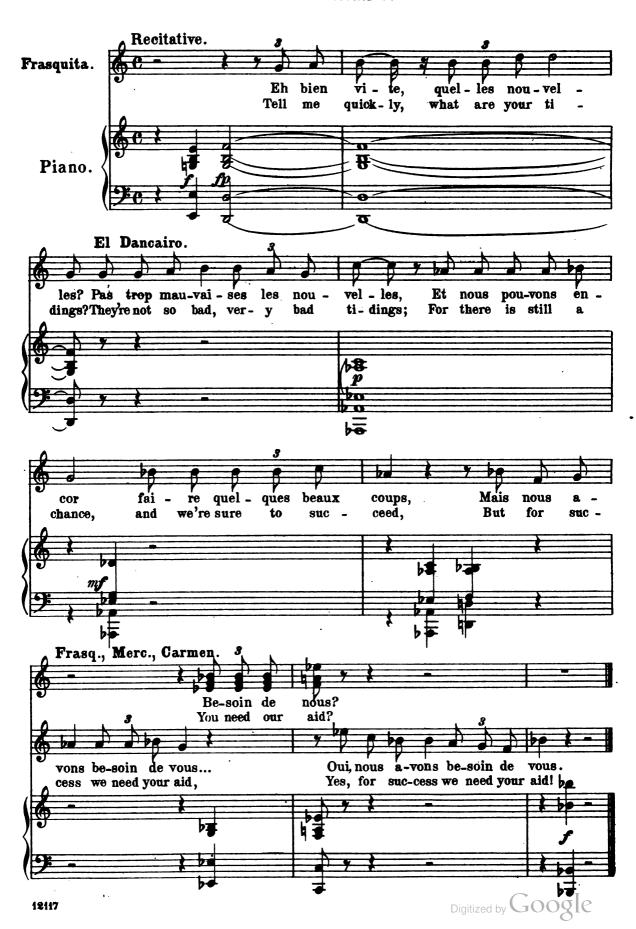








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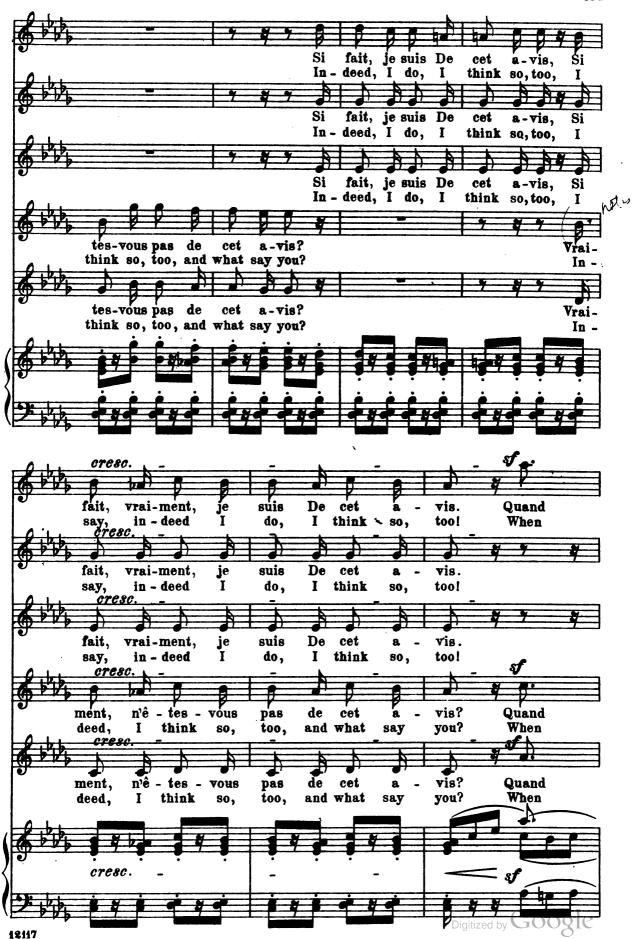






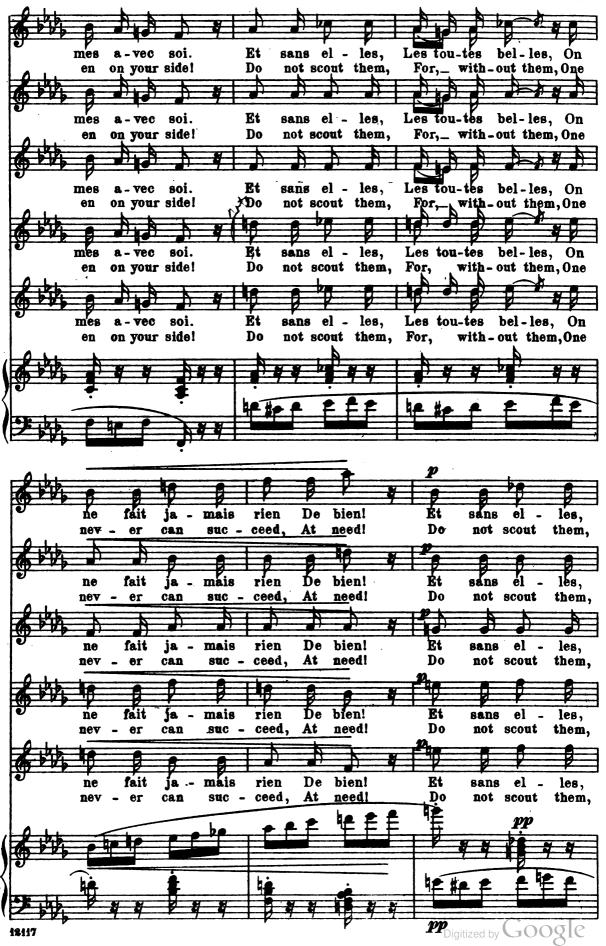
















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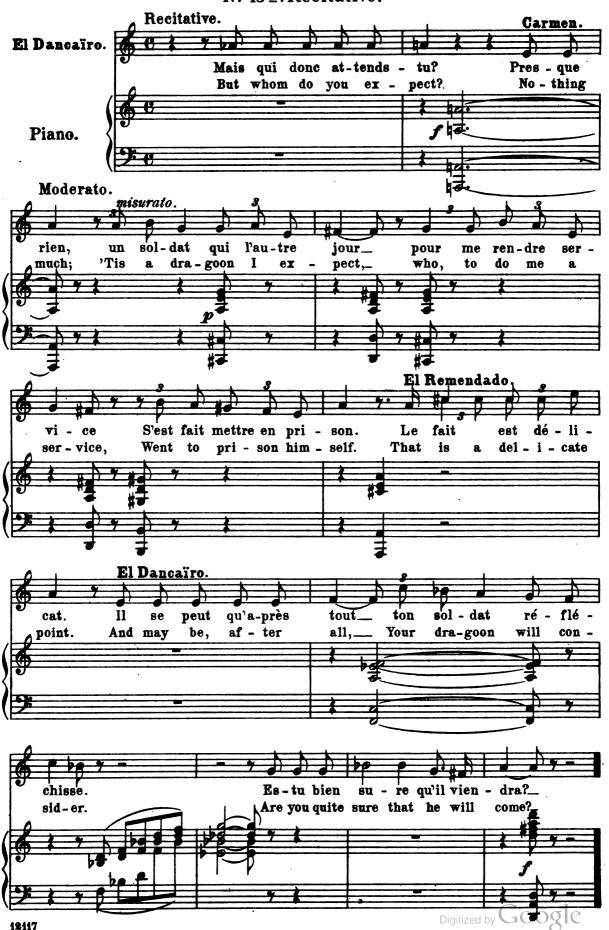
























*) Note: The castanet-part, printed in small notes, may be performed either in the orchestra by one of the players belonging to the latter, or on the stage by the artist singing the rôle of Carmen, in which case the rhythm may be modified at the pleasure of the artist.

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*) In case the part of this duet included between A and B (page 210) is too low for the voice of the artist singing the rôle of Carmen, transpose a tone higher (without transition).

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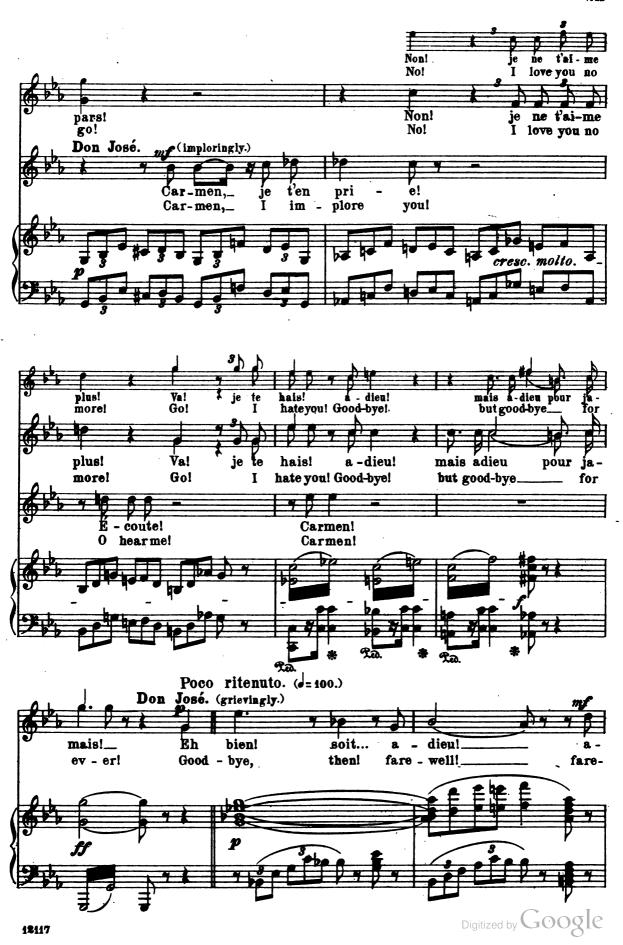


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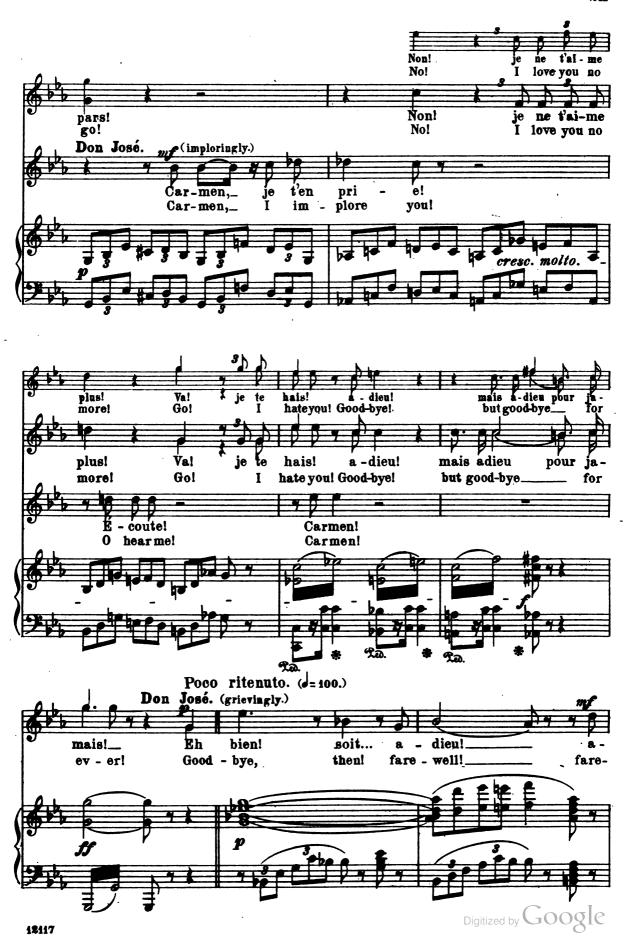
























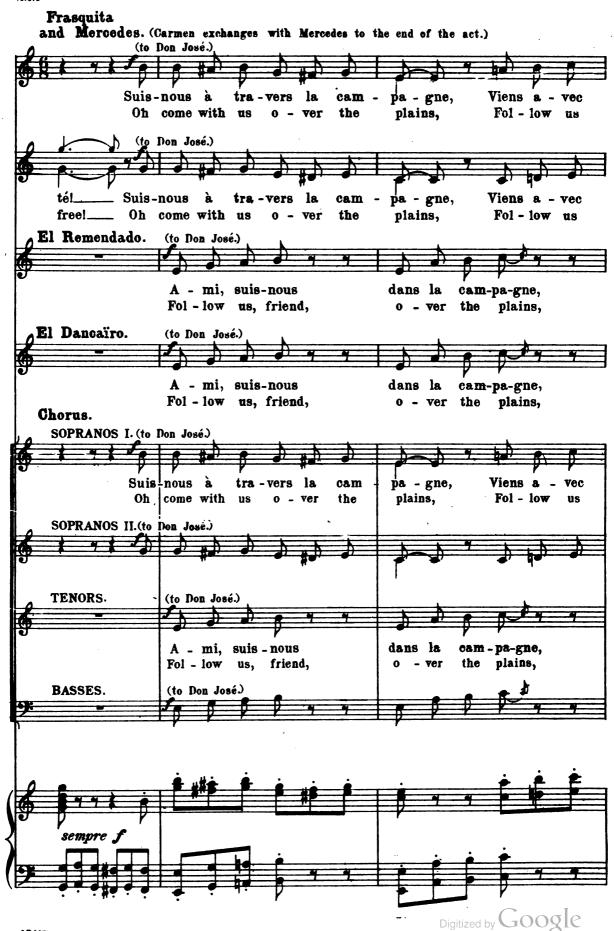


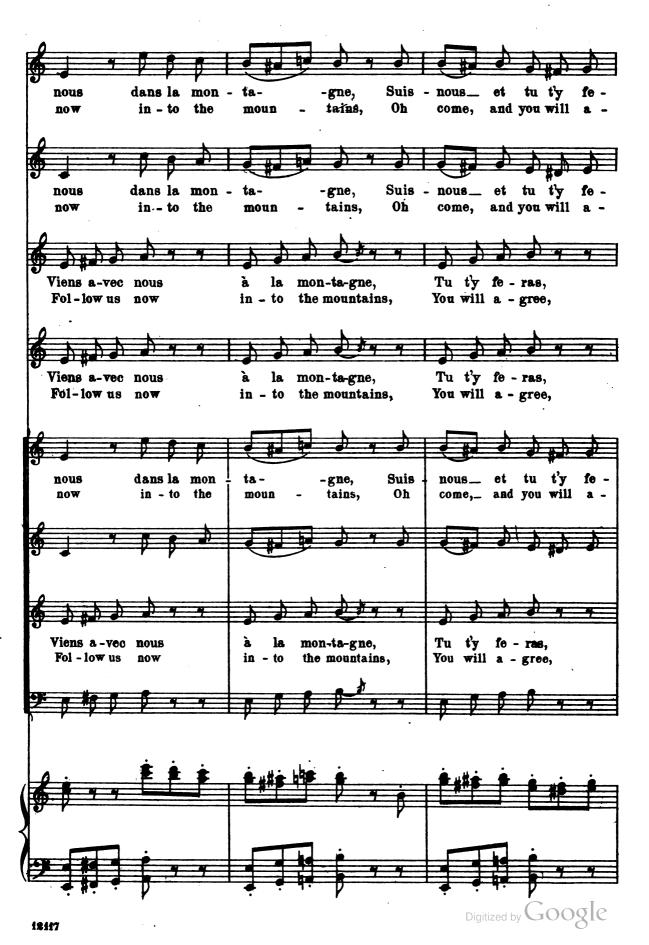


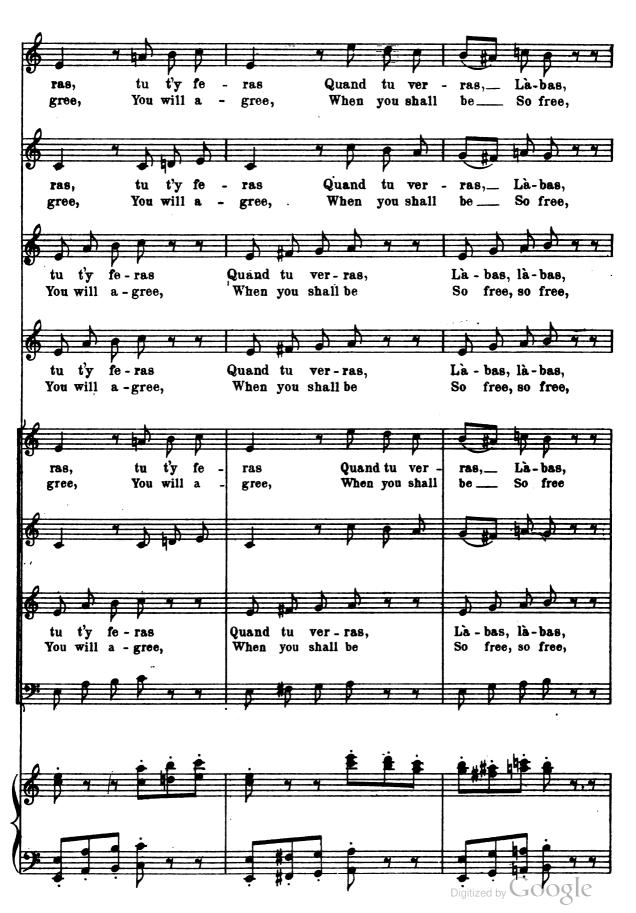






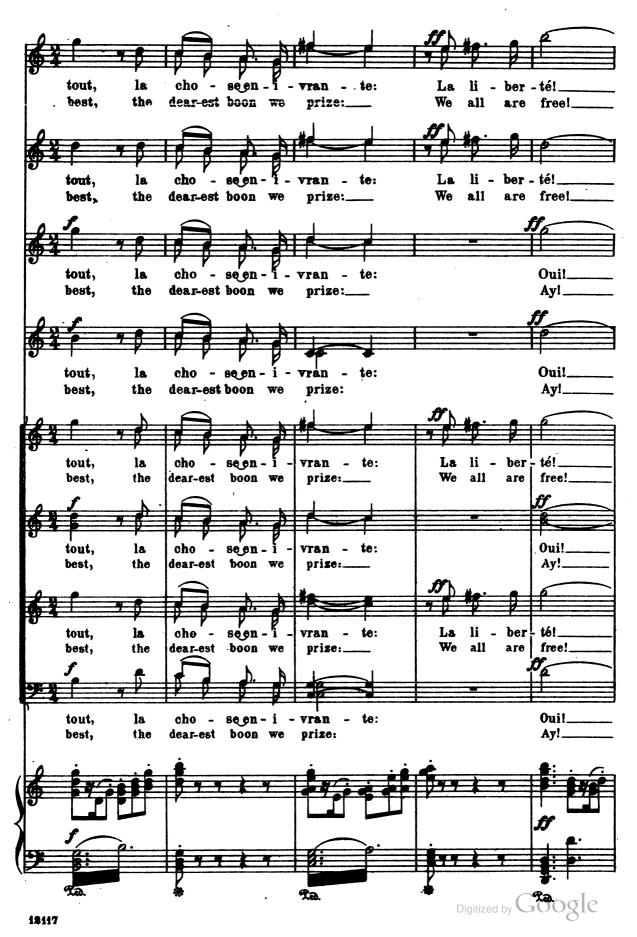










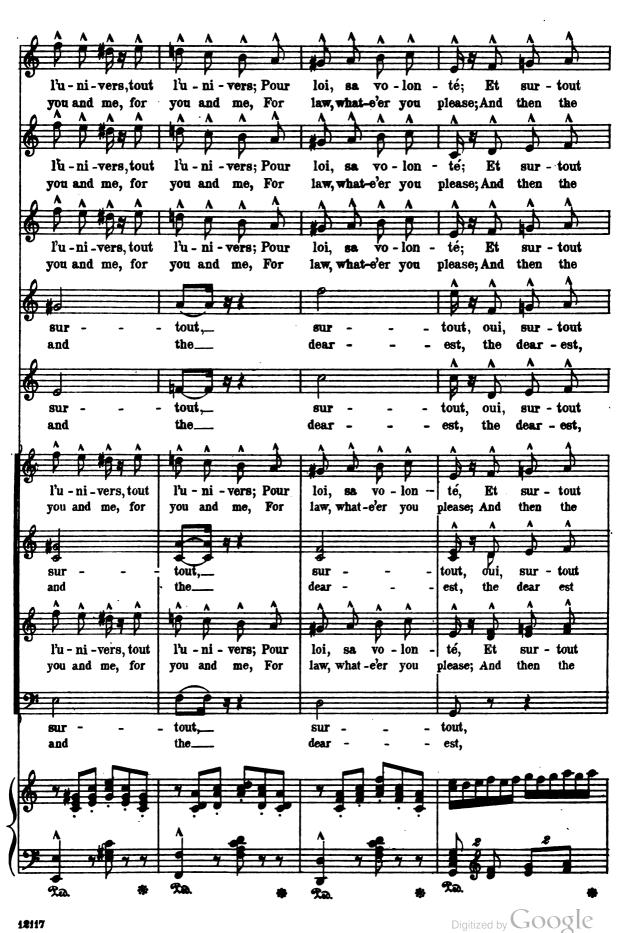




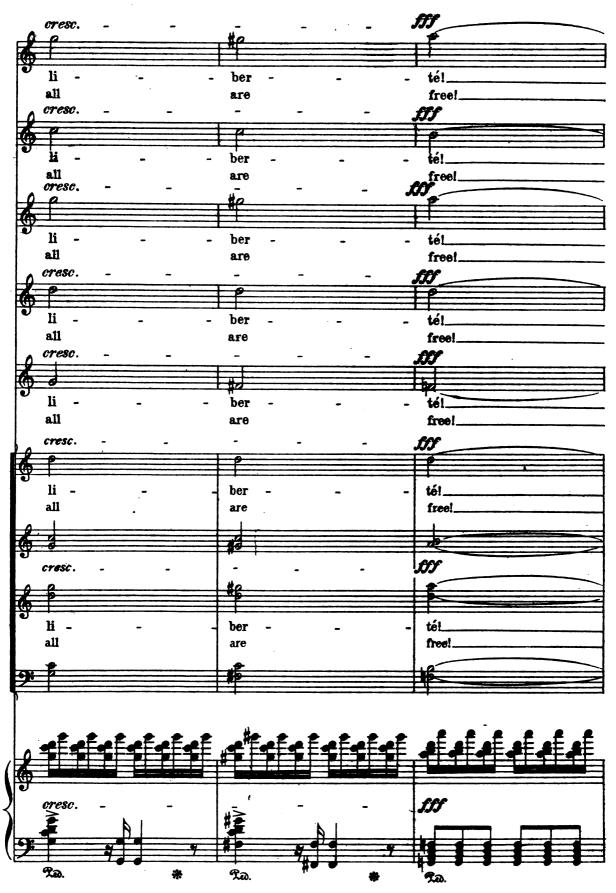








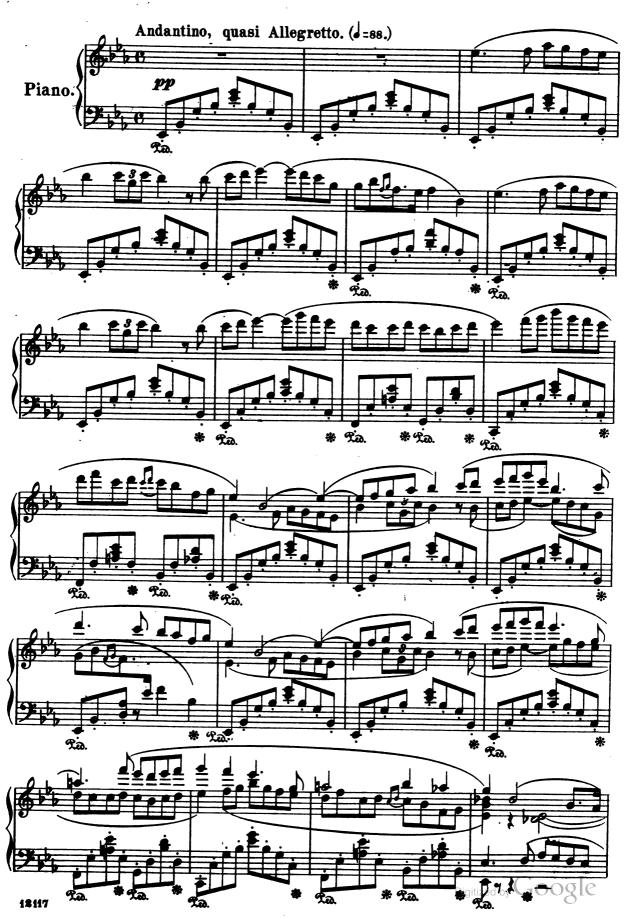








Entracte.





Act III.

A wild spot in the mountains.

Nº 19. Sextet and Chorus.



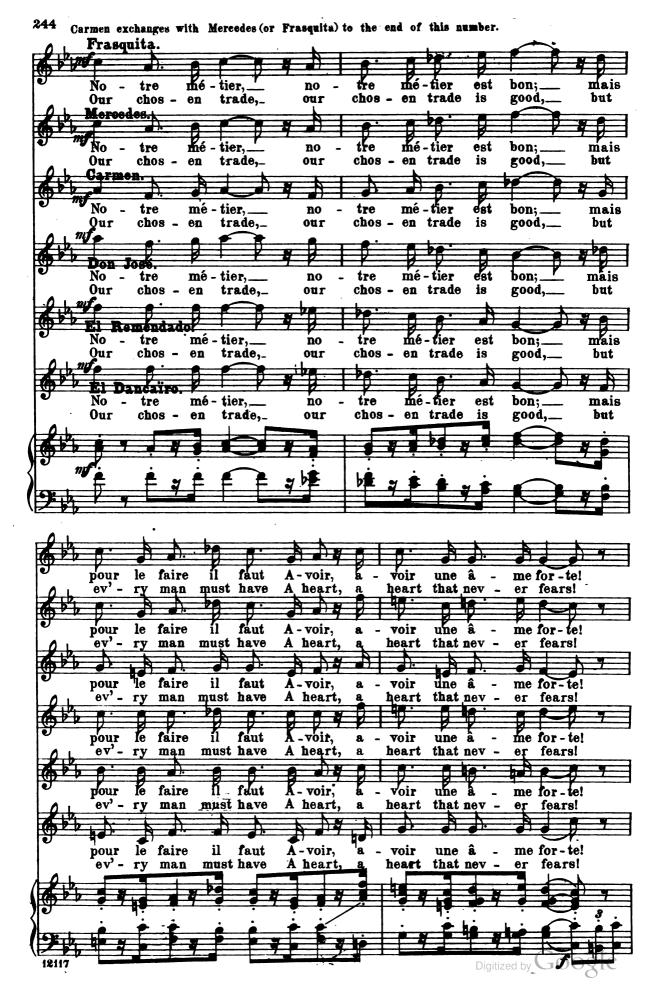




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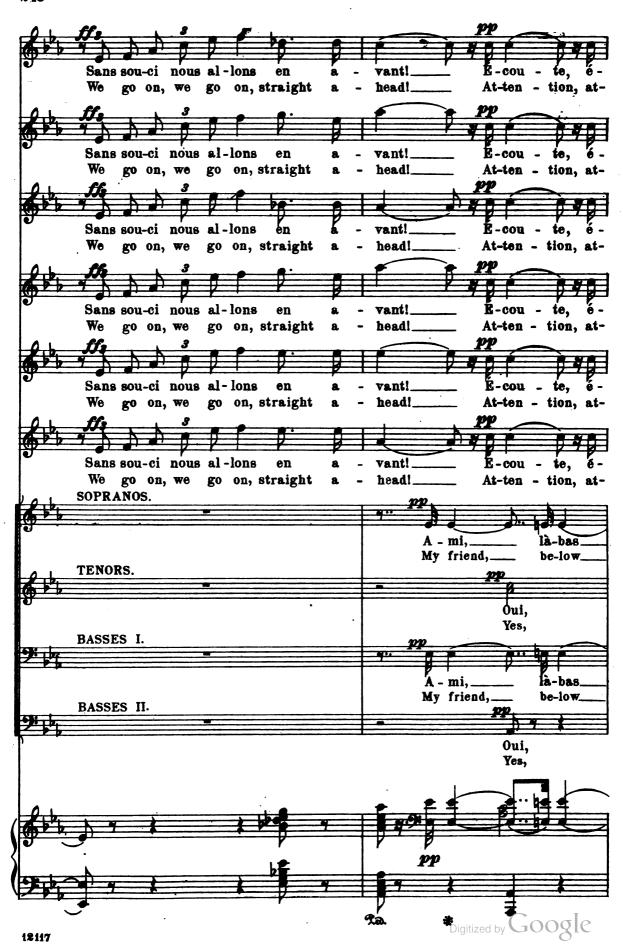


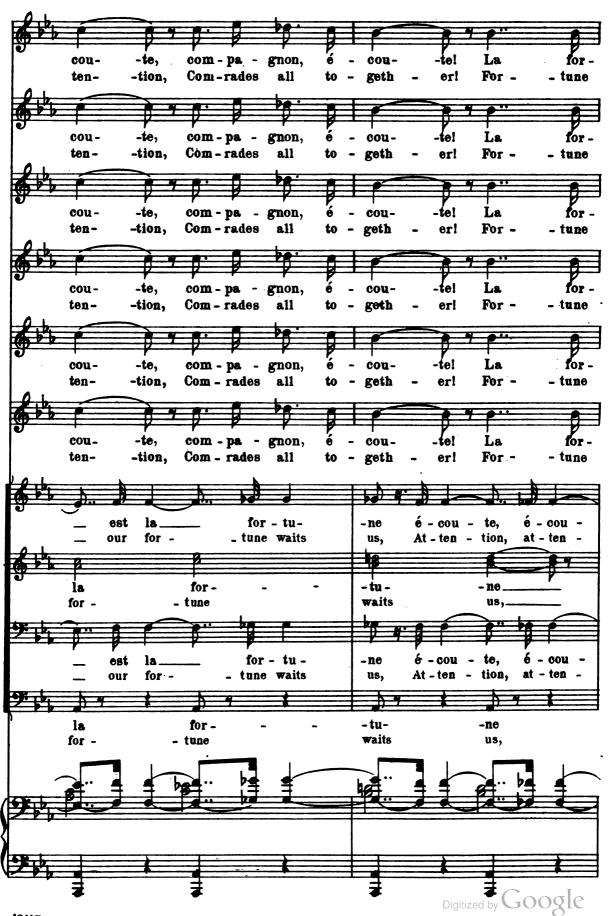


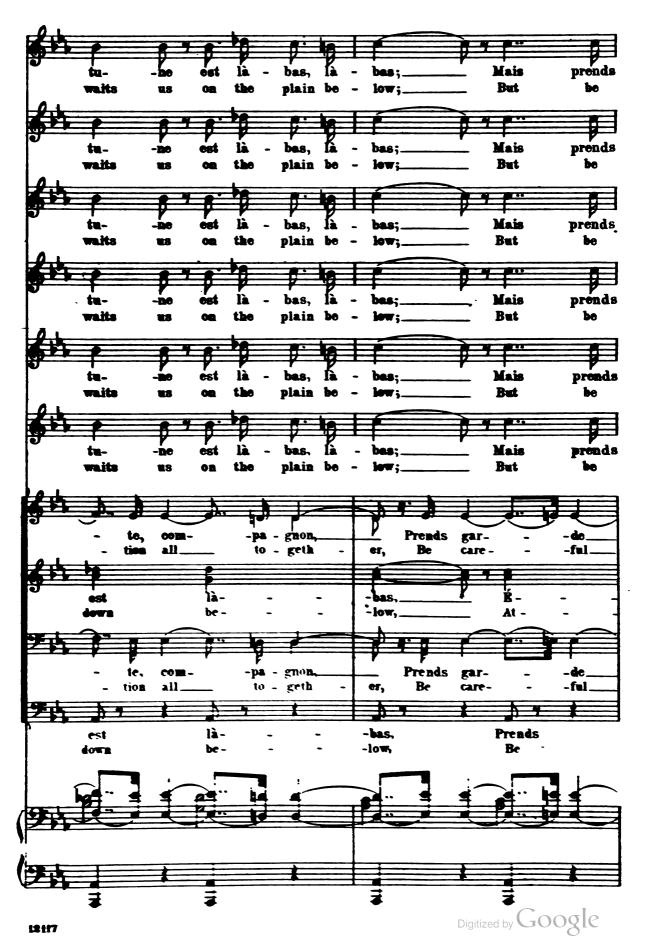


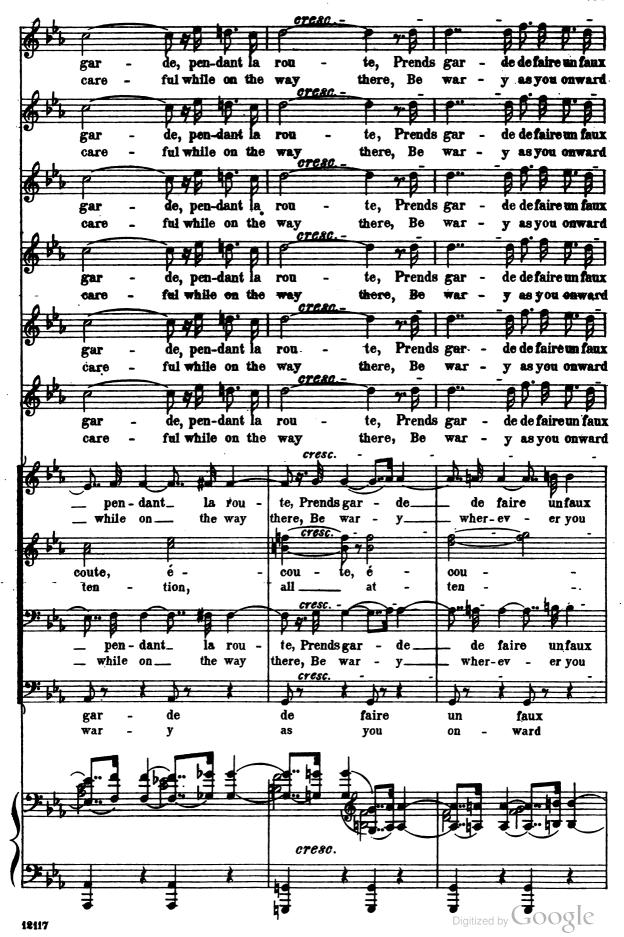


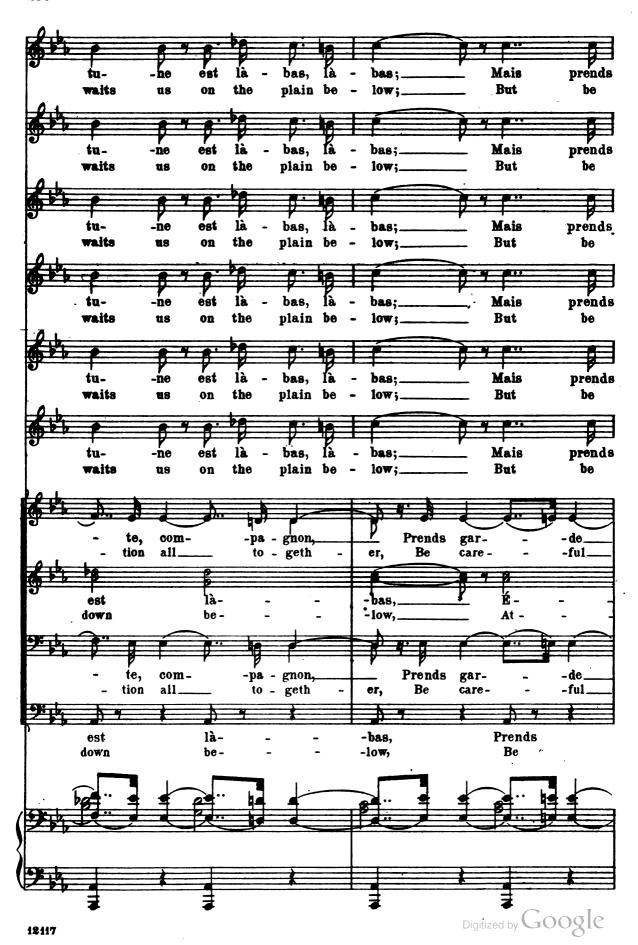


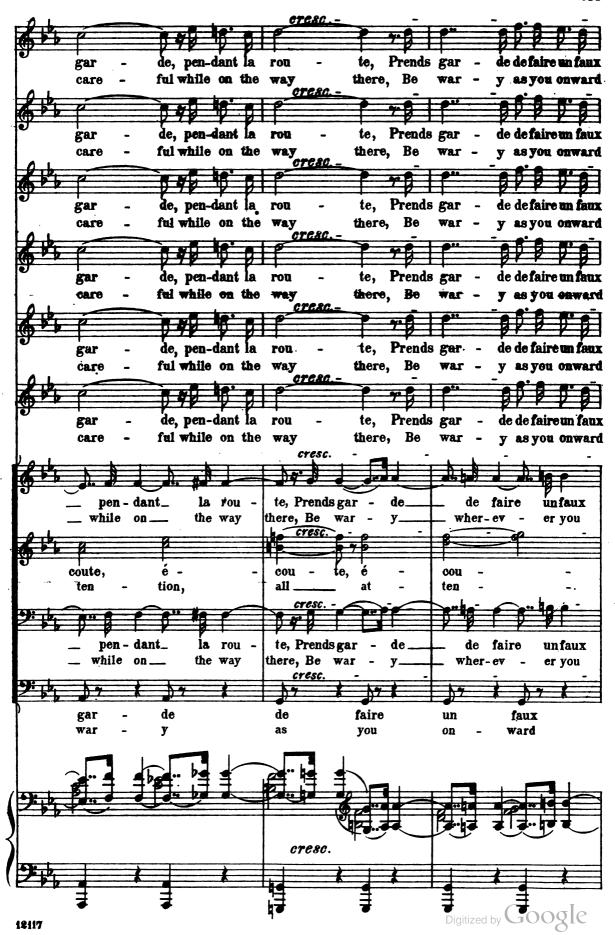










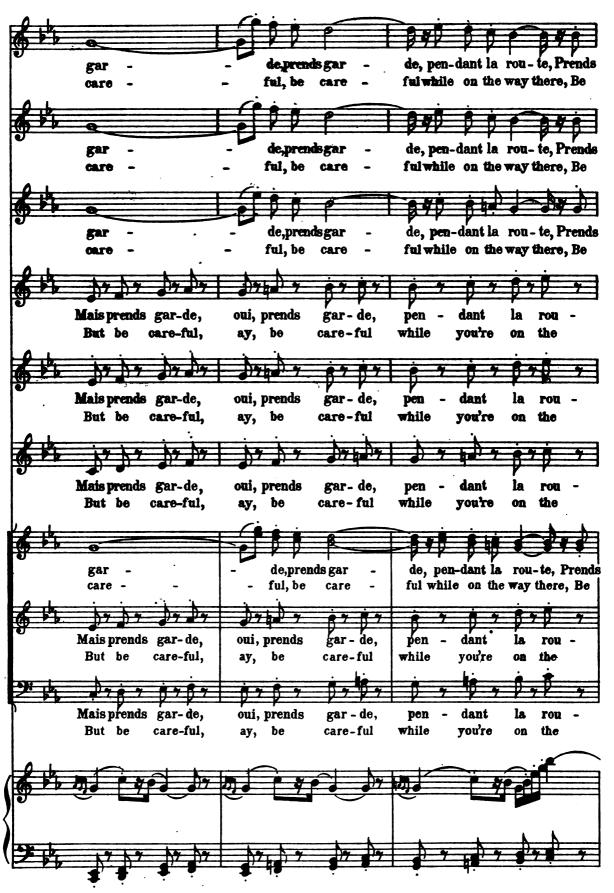


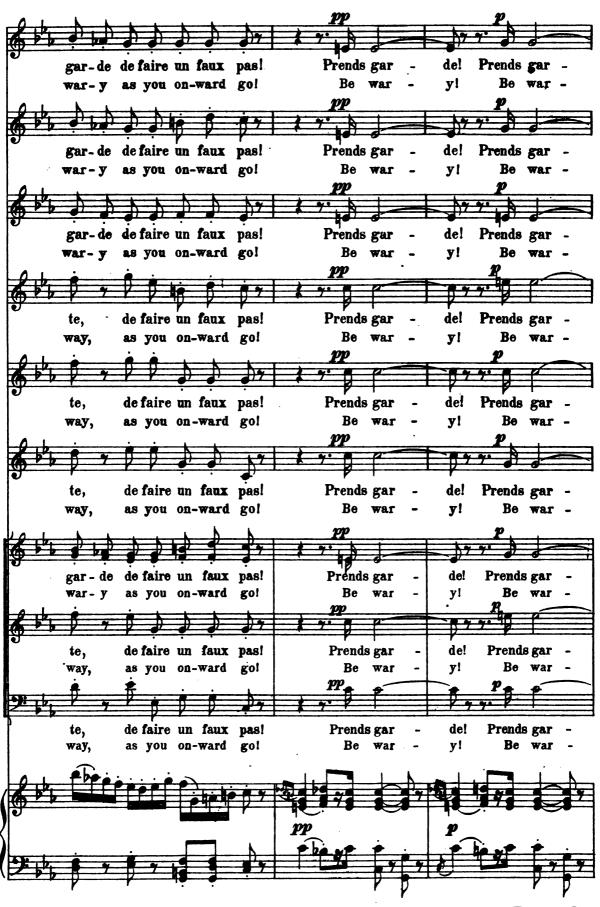










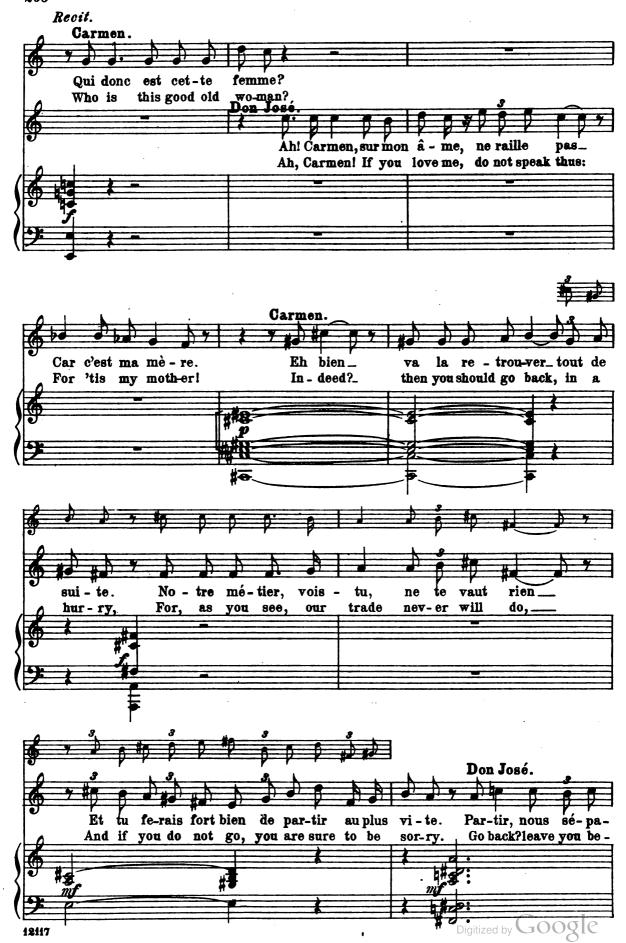




Nº 19 bis. Recitative.









Nº 20. Trio.





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by retaining Di instead of taking Di, one may transpose a semitone higher (F# minor instead of F minor) to the sign ϕ on p. 274; then execute the 2 measures A and B in small notes, as written, and proceed to the next.





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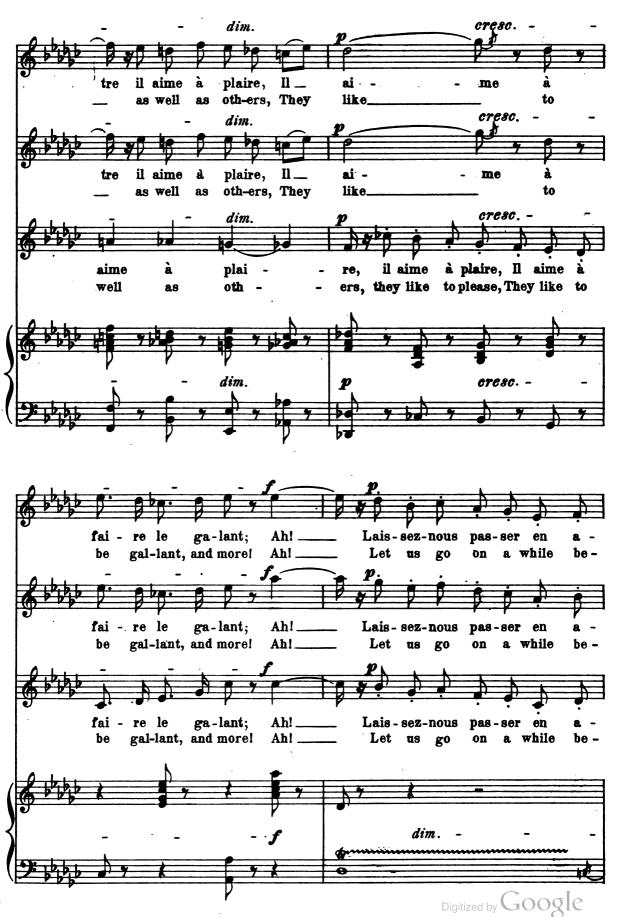
Nº 20 bls. Recitative.





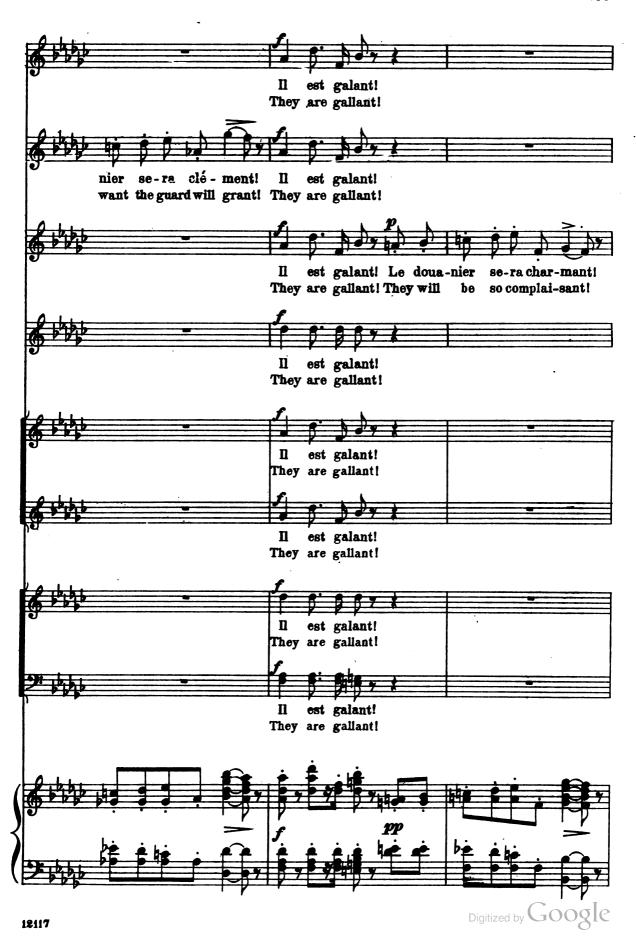
Nº 21. Morceau d'ensemble.

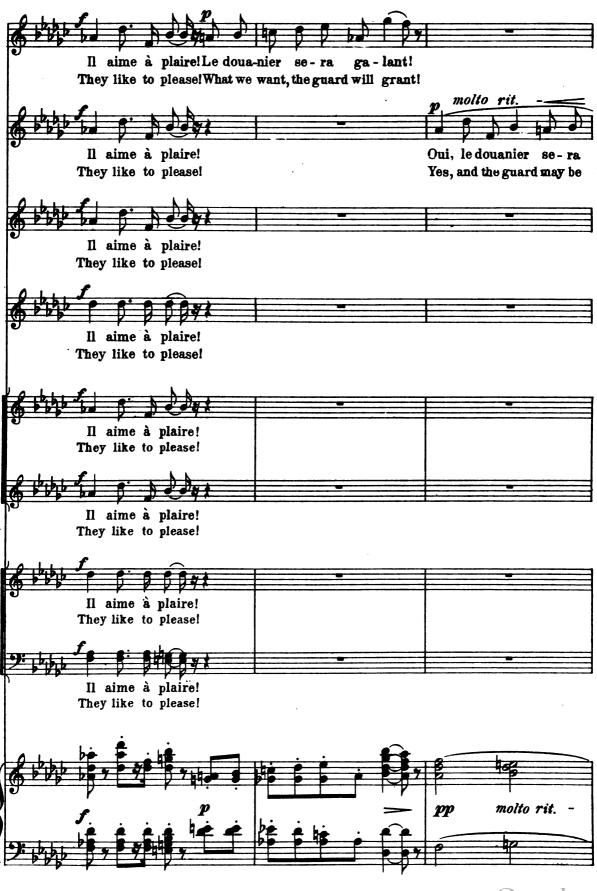
















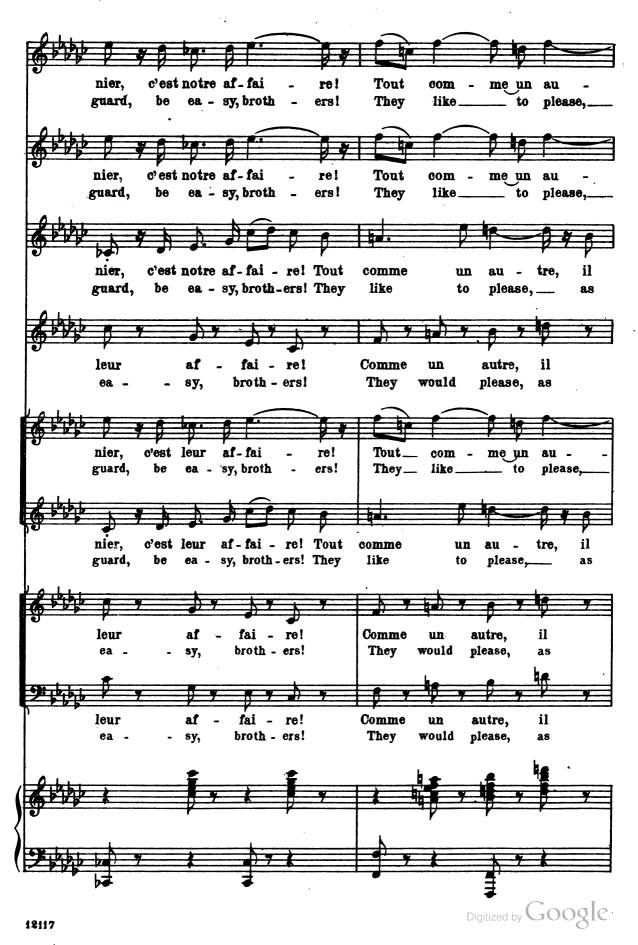


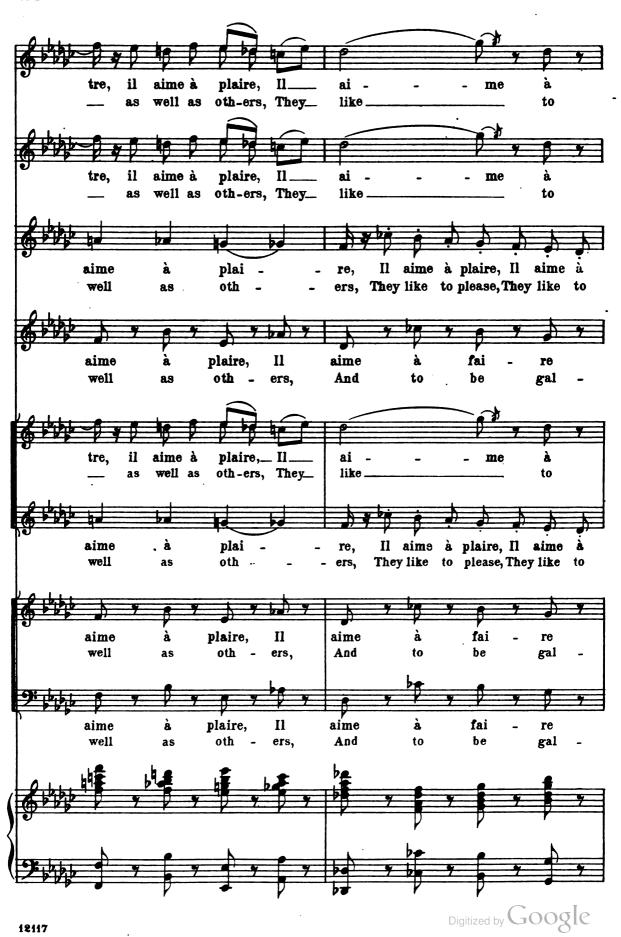


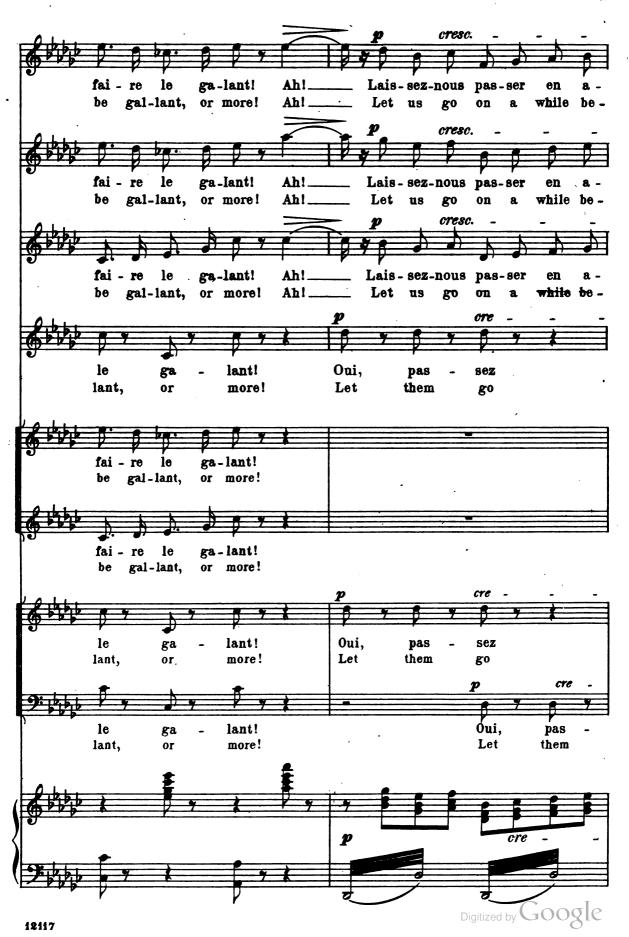


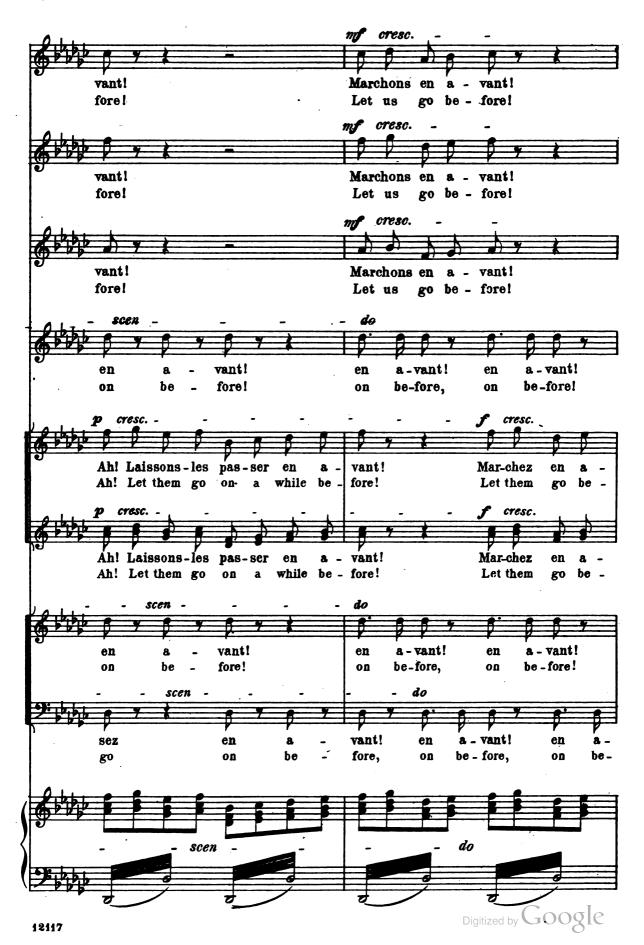












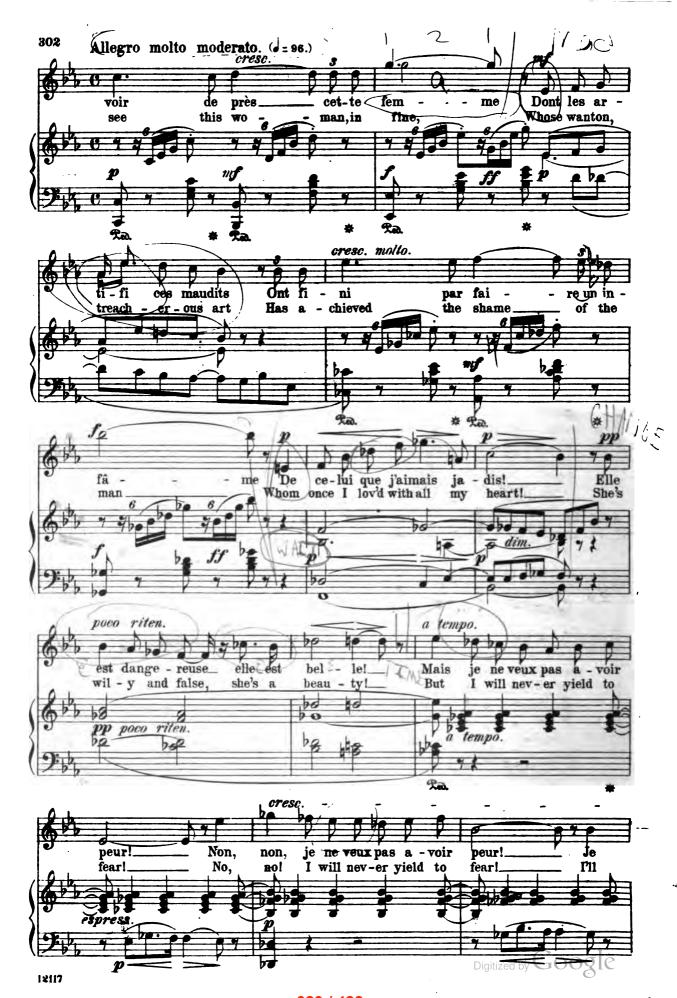














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Nº 24. Finale.

















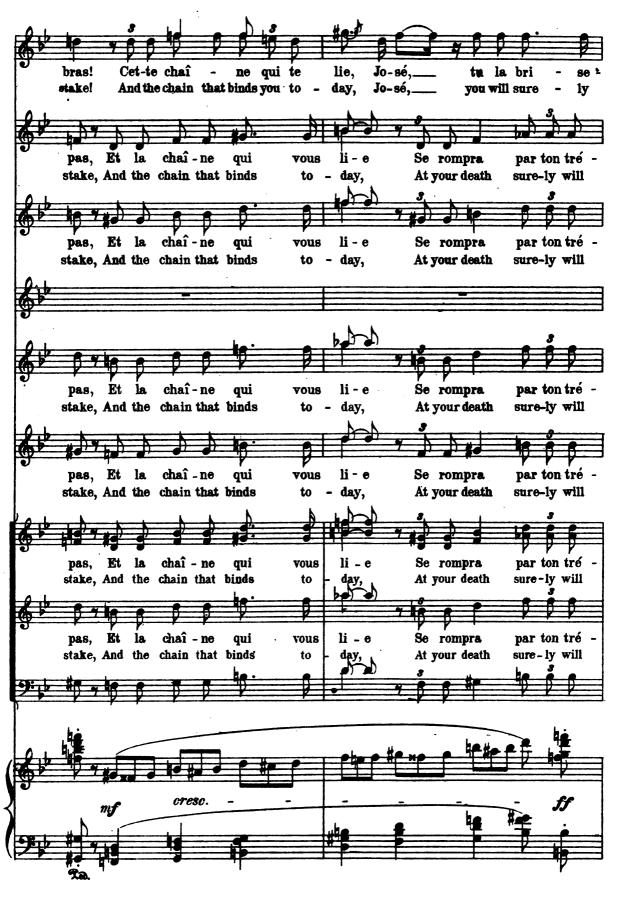












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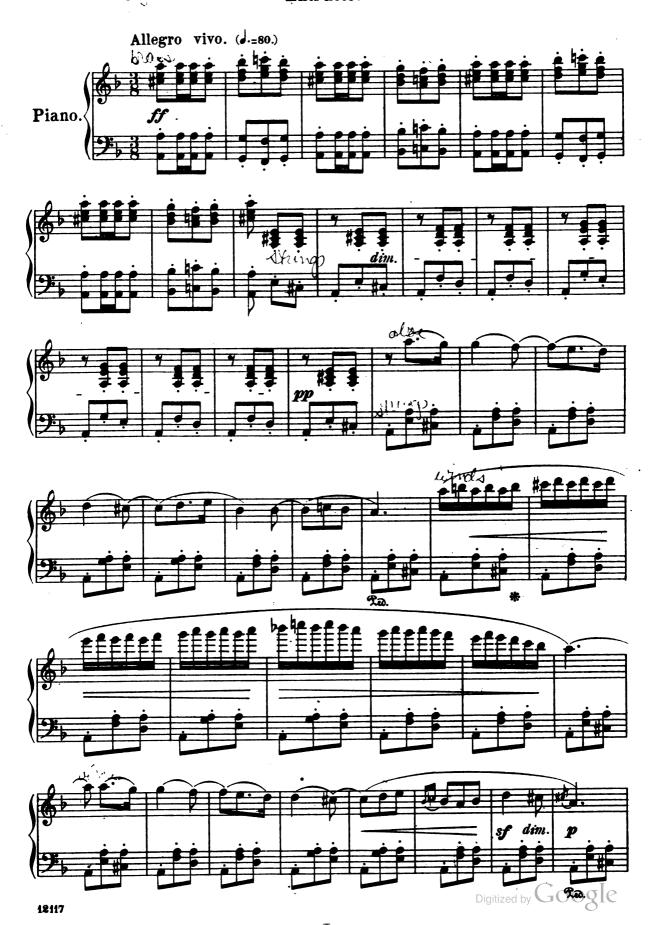
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A square in Sevilla. At back, the walls of the ancient amphitheatre; the entrance to the latter is closed by a long awning.



Publishers.

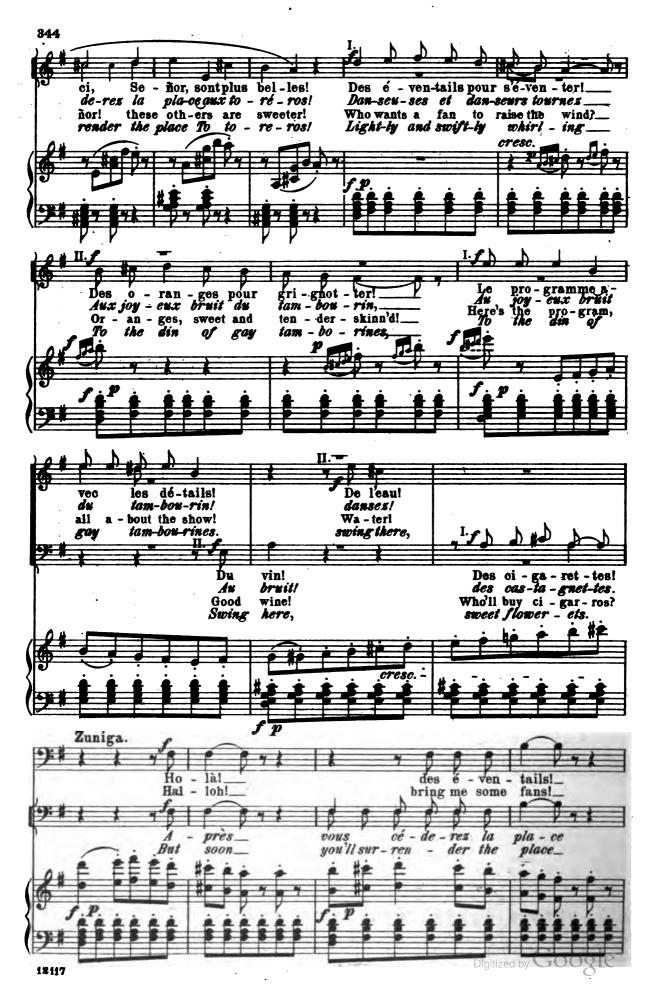




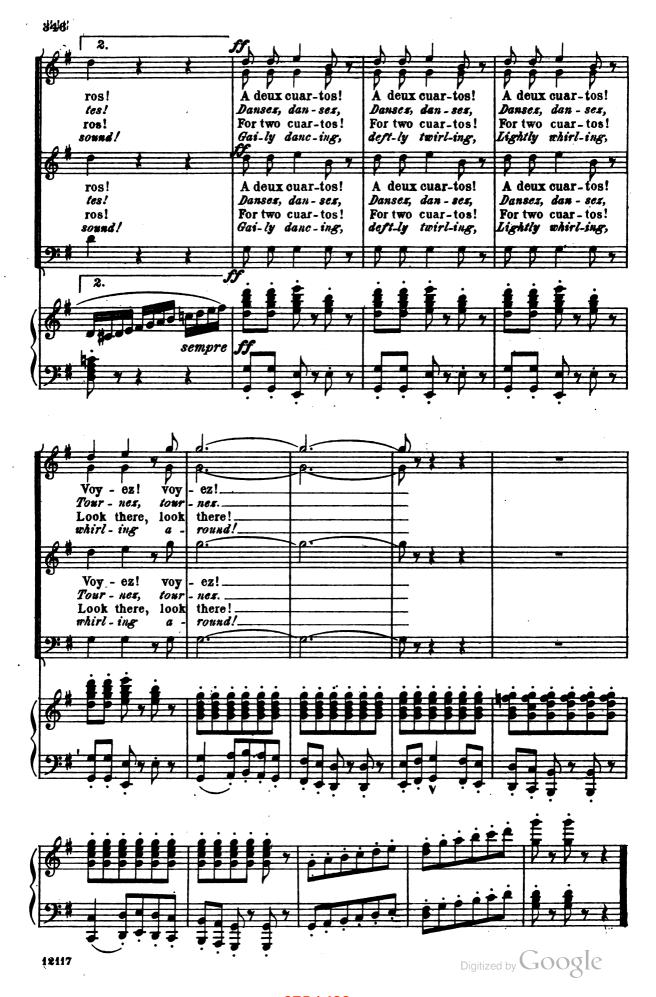












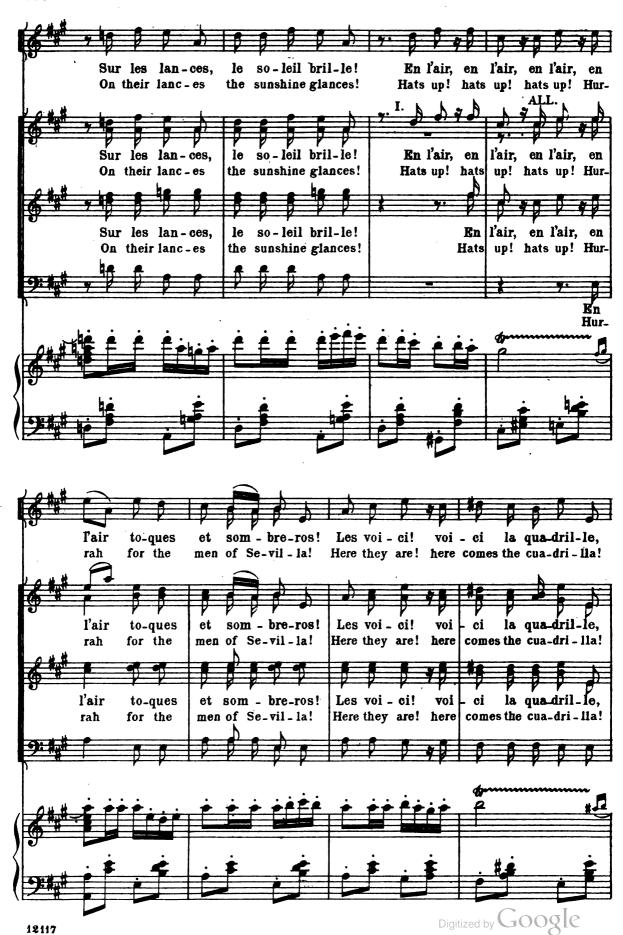
Nº 26. March and Chorus.







^{*)} A cuadrilla, at a Spanish festival, is a group of performers distinguished from the rest by colors, insignia, or uniforms. Digitized by Google











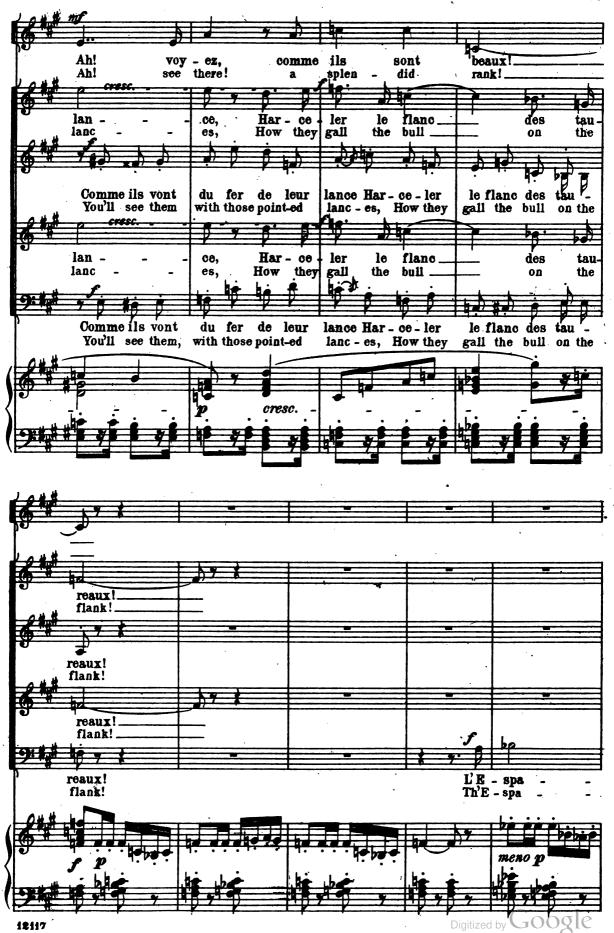


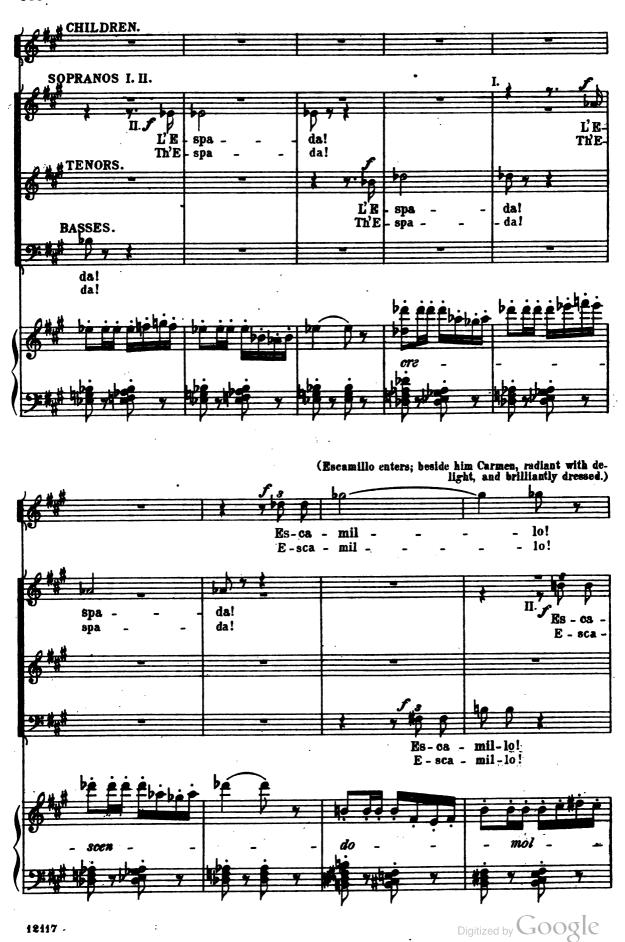
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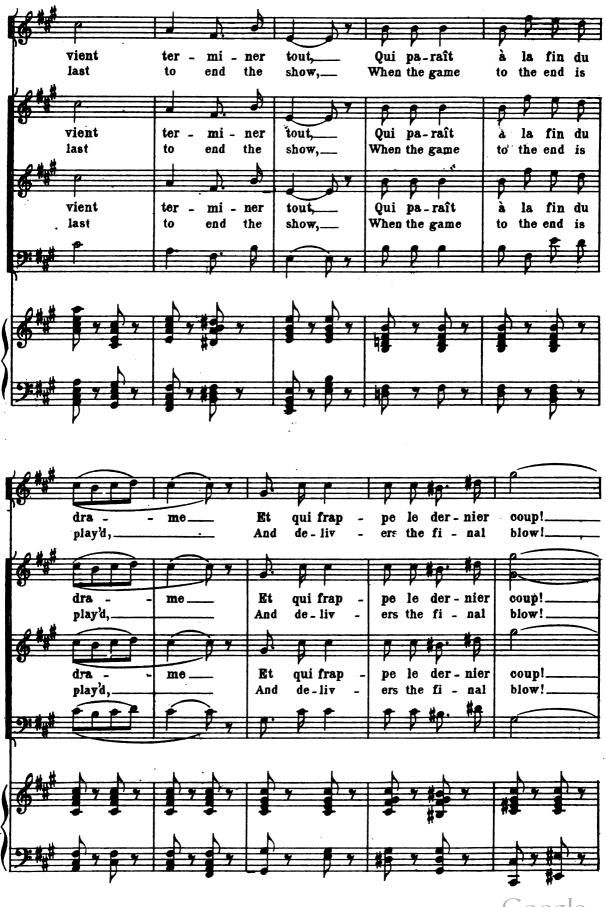




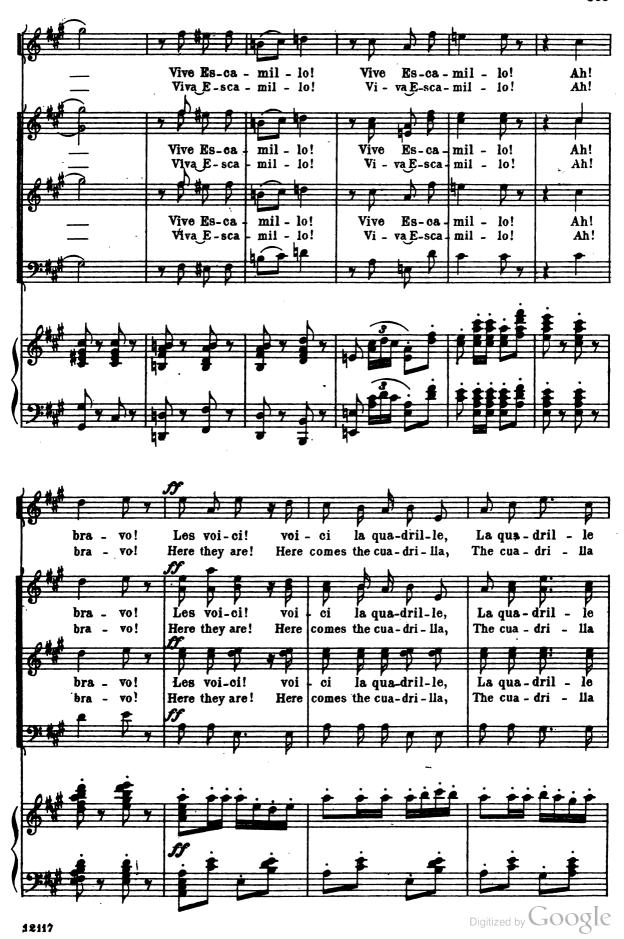








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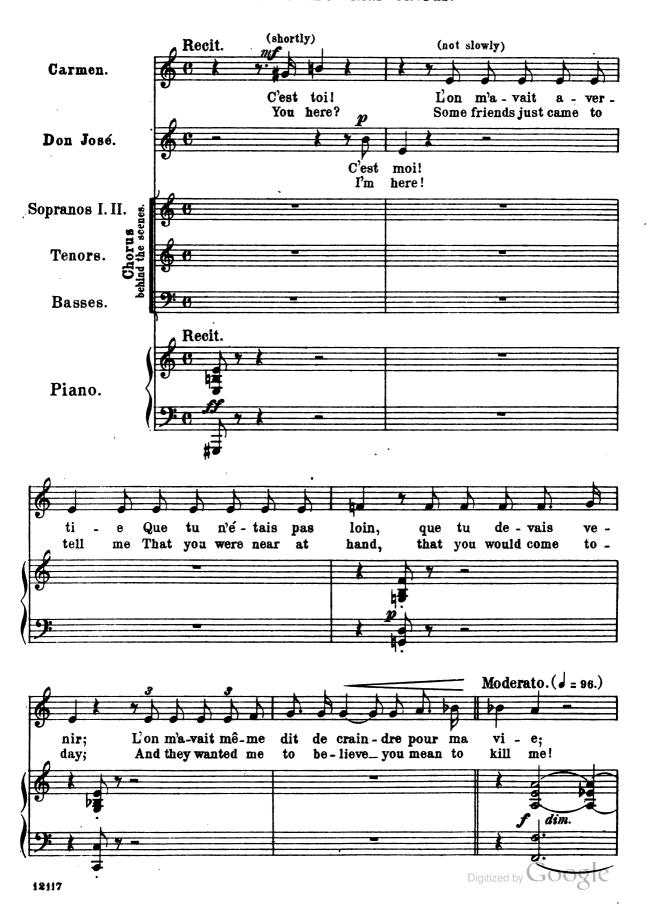




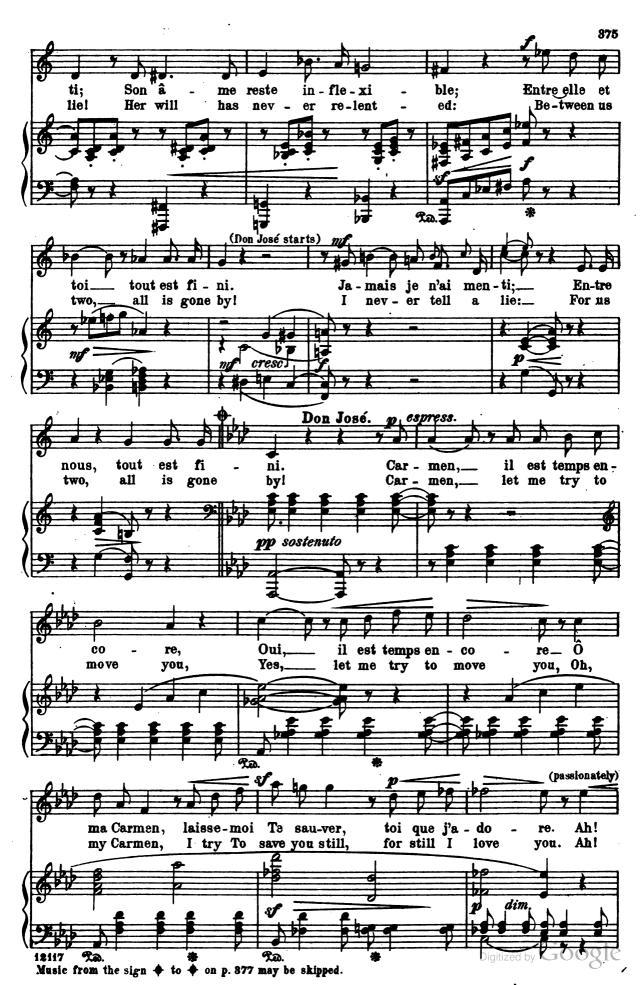




Nº 27. Duet and final Chorus.















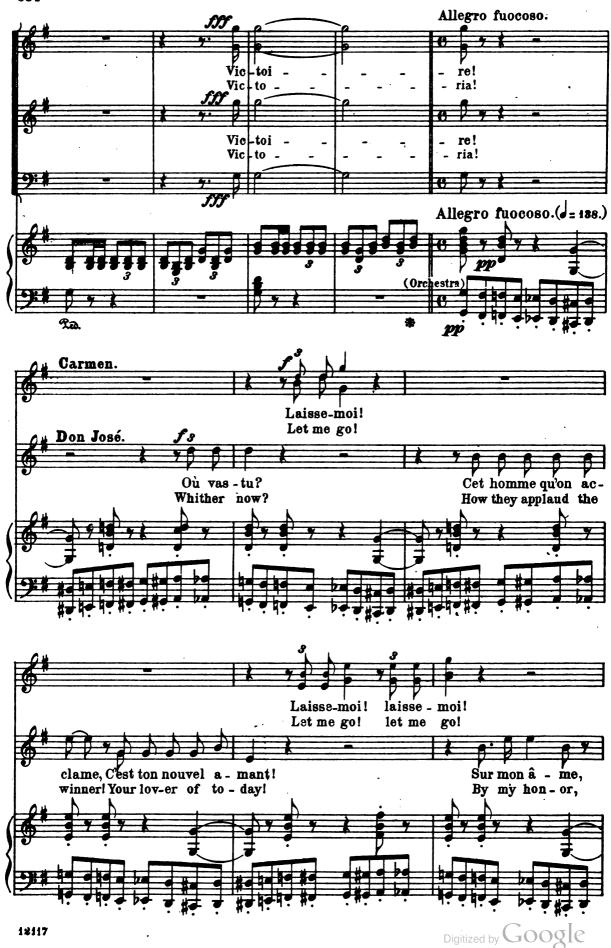




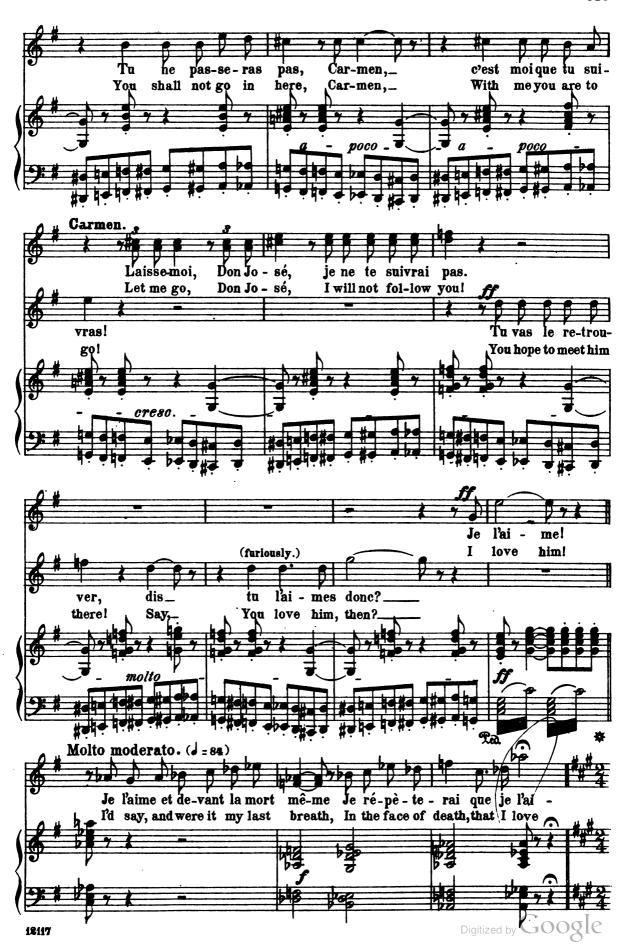








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(Carmen attempts to escape, but Don José catches up with her at the entrance of the amphitheatre; he stabs her; she falls, and dies.)

